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THE TIMES

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Katherine Hamnett
Changing with the times
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TOMORROW: Fantasy League

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

American B52 bombers were within 30 minutes of hitting Iraq

Clinton backs bid to oust Saddam

By Michael Evans, James Landale and Damian Whitworth

PRESIDENT CLINTON vowed last night to intensify efforts to remove President Saddam Hussein from power, after calling off massive airstrikes on Iraq at the last moment.

Mr Clinton, backed by Tony Blair, warned Saddam that American and British forces would remain on alert to attack if he did not match his promised co-operation with UN arms inspectors with action on the ground. The force in the Gulf is still being strengthened.

The inspectors could be back in Iraq within 24 hours and Mr Blair's spokesman said that it would soon become apparent whether the Iraqi leader was going to keep his promise.

Saddam's climbdown on Saturday — in a letter to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General — came almost too late. B52 bombers, armed with cruise missiles, were within 30 minutes of launching their weapons when President Clinton reversed his executive order for airstrikes. He and Mr Blair had agreed to launch bombing raids at the weekend after eight telephone calls last week.

Last night Mr Clinton made it clear that he wanted unfettered access to all sites — known and suspected — in the UN's efforts to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Washington and London both took tough positions when Iraq at first appeared to set conditions in the letter to Mr Annan. It included a two-page annex setting out Iraq's demands for a "comprehensive review" of its relations with the UN" within a very short time (seven days, for example)" of the inspectors resuming their work.

It also reiterated Iraq's demand for a "legal interpretation" of the key UN provision that ties UN oil sanctions to Baghdad's co-operation with arms inspections. The conditions, which Iraq later described as only "aspirations", were rejected out of hand.

In his statement from the White House, Mr Clinton warned the Iraqi leader that the America would strike without warning if he broke his new promise of co-operation. "Iraq has backed down but that is not enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations. Until we see complete compliance we will remain vigilant and keep up the pressure. We will be ready to act."

He then issued his strongest commitment yet to a long-term solution to the region's problems. Saddam remained an "impediment" to the well-being of his people and while the operation to contain the Iraqi leader would continue "over the long term, the best way to address that threat is through a government in Baghdad, a new government, that is committed to represent and respect its people, not repress them; that is committed to peace in the region".

He added: "Over the past year we have deepened our engagement with the forces for change in Iraq, reconciling the two largest Kurdish opposition groups, beginning broadcasts of a Radio Free Iraq throughout the country.

"We will intensify that effort, working with Congress to implement the Iraq Liberation Act which was recently passed, strengthening our political support to make the opposition a more effective voice for the aspirations of the Iraqi people."

Mr Blair also insisted that Iraq had to act immediately on its promise to allow in the UN inspectors and said the crisis would not be over until "absolute and unconditional compliance" was guaranteed and delivered. Britain remained ready, willing and able to strike at a moment's notice. He had given the authority for British forces to attack Iraq on Saturday and would nt hesitate to do so again.

"There will be no further warning whatsoever. This thing is not over yet, until we have every single bit of this bolted down and in place. We remain ready, willing and able to strike at any point in time."

Mr Blair's official spokesman said that the UN inspectors would be going in "within days rather than weeks" to examine previously barred sites. "The slightest obstruction of that will leave [Iraq] open to immediate attack."

"Better put the champagne back in the fridge"

Iraq showdown, pages 14, 15
Lawrence Freedman, page 22
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AMR NABIL/AFP

Iraqis under a giant portrait of Saddam mark Baghdad Day, the anniversary of the founding of the city

Unions face tougher task to qualify for recognition

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Government is expected to amend its forthcoming employment legislation by making it tougher for unions to achieve automatic recognition within companies.

In response to widespread industry concern, Peter Mandelson, Trade Secretary, is poised to introduce safeguards to prevent unions organising snap recruitment campaigns to win immediate recognition.

Under the Government's proposals as they stand, unions gain automatic recognition without having a ballot if they can show that 50 per cent of the workers in a company are members. But, in a move that will anger the movement, the Government is expected to insist that union members should also be asked whether they wish the union to represent them in wage negotiations.

To gain recognition the union would have to show that 50 per cent of the employees wanted it to represent them in collective bargaining discussions with management.

In a further tightening of the proposals, which some employers organisations saw as a union victory when they were agreed by Margaret Beckett, Mr Mandelson's predecessor, workers will have to show they have a commitment to union membership before being included as part of the 50 per cent. Mr Mandelson is expected to rule that they should be members for at least three months to be counted.

The move is intended to stop unions moving into companies and trying to gain overnight recognition by rapidly signing up workers. The changes are certain to be bitterly opposed by the TUC, which has argued against any shift in the settlement with Mrs Beckett. But the Government says it was always envisaged that there would be consultations on the details and that it is responding to justifiable fears among employers.

Tony Blair has played a big behind-the-scenes role in the discussions. The Prime Minister has been anxious to ensure the Government's good relations with industry are not jeopardised by the legislation, which will be included in the Queen's Speech opening the new session of parliament next week.

Mr Mandelson makes his decision over the next few days. He is also looking again at proposals to abolish the ceiling on compensation for unfair dismissal. Employers have argued that scrapping an upper limit — now about £12,000 — would lay them open to huge claims. Mr Mandelson is understood to be considering a maximum of up to £50,000.

Empoyers would like the figure to be lower but the decision to have a ceiling is another move towards them. Even Mr Blair's union movement allies, such as Ken Jackson of the engineering union, have given a warning against watering down the earlier plans.

Alarmed by the deepening loss of public confidence in the economy, Mr Blair will break with tradition in his Guildhall speech tonight. The Prime Minister, who normally uses the occasion to set out foreign policy, will claim the United Kingdom is well placed to weather the downturn

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Farmers to get £150m urgent aid

By Valerie Elliott and Michael Hornsby

GORDON BROWN has agreed to dip into the Treasury reserve to fund a rescue package of up to £150 million to help farmers to survive the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

Details are expected to be announced by Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, today, but the final sum was still under negotiation last night.

The National Farmers' Union said that the aid would be welcome, but would bring temporary relief rather than a lasting cure. "It will be like putting a pressure pad on a torn artery", Ian Gardiner, the policy director, said. "It will temporarily stop the haemorrhage, but further surgery will be necessary."

The package is expected to include some £48 million of EU aid for beef producers as well as assistance for hill farmers.

Executors search world for heirs to £7m fortune

By Susie Steiner

IN LIFE, Helen Lowe was alone. Having lost her love in the First World War, the Scottish spinster turned her attentions to business and amassed £7million in shares and property.

In death, however, Miss Lowe is developing a suprising extended family. A worldwide search has been launched to find heirs to her estate after the pensioner died without making a will.

Lowes have since been found in Canada, Australia and South Africa and a genealogist is helping Miss Lowe's executors. The task is "taking a lot of time and effort", said Andrew Lowe, the deceased's second cousin. There are 20,936 adults named Lowe living in Britain alone.

"We have unearthed a number of relatives already and no doubt there are more to come," Mr Lowe said. "There could be dozens and we have to establish this before we can make any move." Only legitimate heirs need apply — those staking a claim will have to prove their lineage in a Sheriff Court with birth, death and marriage certificates.

Helen Lowe: died aged 99 without leaving a will

Miss Lowe, who died a year ago aged 99, was described as a "canny" businesswoman who became one of Scotland's first women chartered accountants and started her own firm in 1928. A leading figure in Edinburgh's business community, Miss Lowe was appointed MBE in 1964 in recognition of her work with elderly people.

"She was as bright as a button and continued to work right up until she died. She wasn't frugal so much as canny," said Mr Lowe. By the time she died — weeks before her 100th birthday — Miss Lowe owned a portfolio of stocks and shares and properties in the Edinburgh area.

"We don't know how many benefactors there will be," said Mr Lowe. "There is a genealogist piecing together the family tree and finding people who we have never heard of. We think it will be a long time before this is disentangled."

Valerie Gage, 73, who lived next door to Miss Lowe for more than 30 years, said there was a message in Miss Lowe's failure to make a will: "I think she's making a good point to the rest of us that when it comes down to the basic things in life, material possessions don't mean everything."

Jakarta fears crackdown

Jakarta buried its dead as battle lines between the Indonesian Government and reformers hardened.

A crackdown similar to the one in Tienanmen Square against pro-democracy students in Beijing seemed increasingly likely. Another student died, taking the death toll to 11 Page 13

Delay for City watchdog

MPs are to be urged to delay the legislation that will transfer regulatory powers to the Financial Services Authority for another year. There are fears that the new watchdog will breach the European Convention on Human Rights in a case due to be heard at Strasbourg Page 25

Bypass cheered

Sixty-two years and two public inquiries after the idea of a Newbury bypass was mooted, it will open to congratulations from locals and threats from protesters Page 7

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Prince seeks new challenge for charities in drug crusade

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

The Prince of Wales is looking for controversial new challenges for his charities to tackle, now that many of his once-unorthodox ideas have become part of official policy and mainstream thinking.

After years of fighting social exclusion through the work of his charities, the Prince's Trust and Business In The Community, the Prince is now calling on business leaders and central and local government to do more to tackle the problem of drugs misuse among young people. Sources closest to the Prince said that the move was a natural extension of his charitable work. "He is looking for new frontiers and drugs is one of them. So many of the things that he has promoted in the past to his charities are now being done by the government. He thinks he should now move on and find new challenges. The Trust and BITC continue to innovate. That is their whole point," a source said.

Friends say that the Prince feels vindicated now that many of the ideas he has promoted for years, but which have been dismissed in the past as 'batty" or unorthodox, are central to government policy. These include promoting the notion of a stakeholder society by encouraging companies to devote a percentage of pre-tax profits towards community investment, promoting employment opportunities for young people by providing them with financial and moral support and forging partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

They said that the Prince, who is patron of the drugs rehabilitation charity Phoenix House, was acutely aware that all drugs charities had to struggle to get recognition and funding for their work and he now wants to do something about it. One way he hopes to achieve this is through a new initiative launched by his charity Business in the Community, called Drugs - The Business Agenda, which is seeking to persuade companies to provide financial and practical help to community-led anti-drugs projects in their area.

The programme, which is backed by the drugs Czar Keith Hellawell, will be launched in ten regional centres throughout the country and will also seek to promote the message that employers should help find treatment for their workers if they develop a drugs problem, rather than sack them.. Companies should consider providing drugs counselling in much the same way as many firms already offer alcohol counselling to employees with a drink problem. They should also offer support to employees having to cope with a child or other family member who is addicted to illegal drugs.

Much of this runs counter to the growing tendency for employers to conduct random drugs tests of employees, with the aim of rooting out any bad apples.

The Prince is also very keen to improve communication between the myriad of agencies in the public and voluntary sector which currently fund and provide drugs rehabilitation treatment. At a private meeting last week in Sheffield with representatives of the, the Department of Health, local authorities and the charitable sector he called for more "joined up thinking" between anti-drugs organisations.

He also stressed the importance of helping to support young people who leave care at the age of 16 with no family to go back to so that they did not start misusing drugs.

The Prince also wants to mobilise an army of mentors, either retired people with time on their hands or company executives who have been given time off, to help young people with drugs problems. On a visit to a drugs rehabilitation home run by Phoenix House last week, the Prince said that the wisdom of the older generation could be harnessed to provide support. Bill Puddicombe, chief executive of Phoenix House, said that the involvement of the Prince of Wales with the charity was crucial: "So many of the people we work with feel devalued when they come here. The fact that someone of the Prince's standing is interested in what happens to them gives them tremendous encouragement."

Night for jewels, page 6

Ashdown faces fresh criticism as party meets

By Our Political Staff

PADDY ASHDOWN will today face fresh criticism of his plans to extend the Liberal Democrats' cooperation with Labour when senior party officers meet to discuss them.

Although the Liberal Democrat leader last week won the support of most of his MPs, many activists will express their unhappiness that they were not consulted when the national Federal Executive meets today. Party sources expressed confidence that the executive would back the plans but acknowledged that the vote is likely to be close.

Mr Ashdown yesterday challenged his party to welcome the proposal to extend the number of issues considered by the joint Cabinet committee of ministers and Liberal Democrat MPs and peers. The agenda could be expanded from joint action on constitutional issues to include Europe, education, health and welfare reform.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Ashdown told his critics that they must recognise that such continental-style cooperation was inevitable under proportional representation.

This is likely to be particularly true in Scotland where Labour is expected to need an alliance with the Liberal Democrats to hold the balance of power in the Edinburgh parliament.

However, Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, speaking on *Crosstalk* on LWT, warned Mr Ashdown of the concerns within the party and urged the leader to take his grassroots with him, with more consultation before decisions were taken.

Tories to step up rebellion on Lords

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is facing legislative gridlock in the House of Lords this autumn as Tory peers step up their opposition to Labour's planned reforms of the second chamber.

Senior Tories said yesterday that unless the Prime Minister scrapped his plan to expel hereditary peers without saying what would take their place, they would mount an all-out assault on the Government's new legislative programme.

The move comes as the Government struggles to resolve the current confrontation between the Lords and the Commons over the new electoral system for next summer's European elections.

MPs will today back the latest government amendment aimed at ending the crisis but Tory chiefs are insisting the Lords will reject the compromise for a fourth time when the matter returns to the Upper House tomorrow.

Peers are insisting that voters must have the right to back individual candidates. But the Government says that the parties should select the candidates, with voters simply determining how many seats each party gets.

The Tories have been buoyed by their success in the issue and are keen to continue similar attacks on the Government's new package of proposals to be unveiled next week in the Queen's Speech.

Tory officials made clear that the party will abide by the so-called Salisbury Convention, under which the Lords agrees not to throw out manifesto commitments of a newly elected Government. They also added that they would not oppose legislation just for the sake of opposition.

But they said that if the Government did not scrap its two-stage approach to Lords reform, their peers would not be as restrained as they are now.

The Government is committed to ending the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote but have not spelt out any further reforms of the Lords. They will publish a White Paper later next month which will set up a royal commission to consider the ultimate shape of a reformed second chamber. The Tories want wholescale public and cross-party consultation before any changes are made.

The new Tory policy is being characterised as a "zero tolerance" approach to what they see as bad legislation. Instead of letting most legislation go through, they will amend and reject far more measures. This would mean that Bills would take far longer to go through the Lords and throw the Government's parliamentary timetable into disarray. Liam Fox, the Tory constitutional spokesman, said yesterday: "We will not oppose just for the sake of it. But we will oppose what we see as bad legislation and we will not be as willing to constructively amend, or to be restrained, or to turn a blind eye. We will scrutinise with vigour legislation we think is against the country's interests."

He insisted that the Government would "retard their own programme" by being unreasonable and refusing a Tory offer of co-operative reform.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, confirmed that the Tories recognised that the Commons would win in any confrontation with the Lords. But he saide on BBC Television's *On the Record*: "Meanwhile, it is perfectly right and sensible that the House of Lords should exercise the job that it is there to do."

KIERAN DOHERTY

Tony Blair walking into 10 Downing Street yesterday

Maude tells of his gay brother's Aids death

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

FRANCIS MAUDE spoke publicly for the first time yesterday about his homosexual brother's death from an Aids-related illness and called for an end to the "outing" of gay MPs.

The Shadow Chancellor said that his family had been devastated when his brother, Charles, died in 1993, aged 42, and that it had made him a more tolerant person and a politician. He said that the idea of MPs having to declare their sexuality was disgusting.

"People should have parts of their lives which are private," he said.

Charles Maude, a graphic and stage designer, discovered he was HIV-positive in 1986, and became a passionate supporter of the London Lighthouse, the charity helping Aids sufferers find advice and treatment. In his last two years, Charles Maude moved in with his brother and his wife, Christina.

Speaking on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, Mr Maude said: "I don't think it had a huge effect on my political thinking. I've always been, I hope, a tolerant fellow. The effect it has on your family is that it draws you more closely together. The only conclusion you can draw in political terms is that it makes you realise that your family is the thing that matters most."

In an interview with *The Sunday Times*, Mr Maude said that, although his parents had found it difficult to accept accept that his brother was gay, "it always seemed to me a bit pointless to disapprove of homosexuality. It's like disapproving of rain."

Hague seeks to align party with Church

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE will today launch a campaign to end the hostility of recent years between the Tory party and the Church by seeking to reconnect his party's thinking with Christian traditions.

The party leader will announce a taskforce of Conservatives and Christians of all political persuasions to begin a new consultation drive with churches across the country.

In a speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship, he will make clear that he is not claiming that the Tories have a "monopoly on scripture". But he will emphasise the moral and ethical underpinnings of Tory policy, which he believes should be "consistent" with the Christian faith.

In particular, he will make clear the similarities between Christian and Conservative thinking such as support for the family and a belief in limited government, freedom and individual responsiblity. He will also urge Christians to take part in politics.

Tory officials denied that Mr Hague was seeking to suggest that all Tories must be Christians, and vice-versa. But many MPs will see the move as an attempt to combat Tony Blair's attempts to woo voters by highlighting his brand of Christian socialism.

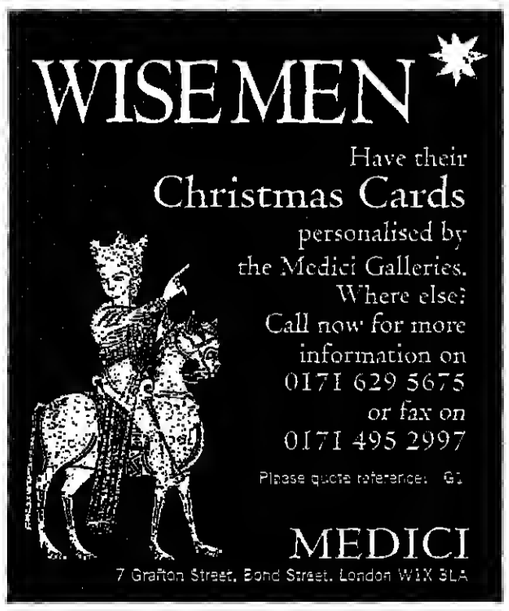
The taskforce, known as the Conservative and Churches Standing Commitee, will be chaired by Gary Streeter, a Tory frontbencher and committed Christian. It will link with the party's "Listening to Britain" campaign by talking to clergy and lay members of all denominations. The group will then question members of the Shadow Cabinet to ensure that Tory policy is meeting the needs of Britain's Christians.

"The Conservative Party must be the party of the whole nation," Mr Hague will say. "We are, as Disraeli said, a national party or we are nothing.

Yesterday Mr Hague emphasised his message in an interview with LWT's *Sunday Night* programme. "It is important that the Conservative Party reconnects with the churches and learns from the churches," he said.

Asked whether he regarded himself a Christian, Mr Hague said: "Yes, I do. I have been brought up in a Christian family but that doesn't necessarily mean that I have been to church every week. Like many in the country, I am a Christian who doesn't go to church every week. But I certainly regard myself as a Christian and my politics are founded on Christian ethics and beliefs."

Hague: sees himself as a Christian



Government to ban age limits at work

By Alexandra Frean
Social Affairs Correspondent

NEW measures to fight ageism at work are to be announced by the Government today, including a ban on age limits and euphemisms such as "newly qualified" or "recent graduates" in recruitment advertisements.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, will call on employers to abandon their stereotypical views and take a more "holistic" approach to the age profile of their workforce.

"Everybody knows that when recruiters ask for 'recent graduates' or 'newly qualified' people, what they really mean is that they only want young people. We want to change that. The idea that younger workers are better or that older workers are more reliable will not longer be accepted," a government source said.

"What works best in many workplaces is a mix of ages."

He added that the proposals, to be outlined in a consultation document entitled *Age Diversity*, have been produced in response to government concern that age discrimination against older workers is confining many older people with valuable skills and experience to live out the rest of their days on state benefits.

Today's move is part of the Government's drive to reduce welfare dependency through its New Deal for employment, which has already focused on key target groups, including young people aged 18-25, lone parents and the disabled.

Of the 9.3 million people aged between 50 and 64 in the United Kingdom today, 3.7 million are not in work. Most of these — 3.4 million — are classified as economically inactive. In 1976 only 11 per cent of men aged 50 to 64 were "inactive", the figure today is 27 per cent.

Ministers believe that specific action on age discrimination is required to reverse this trend. With an ageing population — 34 per cent of the workforce will be 45 or over by 2000 — ministers are also keen to help employers adapt to the inevitable consequence of population change by encouraging them to appreciate the value of older employers.

While the consultation document will recommend the creation of a voluntary code of practice for employers, Government sources emphasised that Mr Smith had not ruled out the possibility of legislation on age discrimination, but added that he was keen to see first how successful a voluntary code of practice can be.

He is not encouraged by the experience of other countries which have legislated on the matter. In New Zealand, the existence of a statutory code proved so problematic and government departments which wanted to hire new staff had eventually to be exempted from it.

'EVERYONE IS FAR TOO CLEVER TO SAY I AM TOO OLD'

ANDY HALE was 48 years old when he lost his job as a senior marketing manager with NatWest two years ago after a company reorganisation. His pay and benefits package was worth around £60,000. He now has a temporary job selling Christmas trees to garden centres for the equivalent of around £6,500 a year.

Mr Hale, from Harrogate, has applied for 200 jobs and attended 20interviews, and believes that age discrimination is a major reason why he has still not found a permanent job. "You can't prove it because people are too clever to say bluntly that you are too old.

" A classic remark that I have heard several times in interviews is 'We have a young team here, how well do you think you would fit in?'", he said. "I recently got invited to an interview for a job that was paying £60,000. I did not get it but it made me realise that there are people who think I have something to offer."

Earth braced for meteors

ONE of the most ferocious meteor storms for decades could wreak havoc tomorrow among satellite television and communication systems.

Astronomers are looking forward to a dazzling display as the atmosphere is bombarded by a spectacular shower of tiny dust fragments.

The space shuttle will be grounded, the Hubble Space Telescope turned away from possible impacts, and satellite operators will cross their fingers as the Earth passes through the wake of the comet Tempel-Tuttle.

It has produced an annual shower of meteors, the Leonids, since the 10th century. They become a storm every 33 years or so, when the Earth crosses the comet's path.

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Surgeons tell of race to save Siamese twins

By Adrian Lee

THE two surgeons who separated Siamese twins at the weekend told yesterday how they raced against time to save the lives of the girls, who had been flown, close to death, to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London.

It was feared that the babies, who were born sharing a liver on Thursday, would not survive Friday night without the emergency operation. The twins are still seriously ill and, despite the success of the surgery, it will be several weeks before they are out of danger. Both face further surgery on their intestines, which were also shared.

They owe their lives to Edward Kiely and Lewis Spitz, veterans of nine previous Siamese operations, and their team. The surgeons said they had to operate quickly but meticulously as the twins were deteriorating rapidly.

Ideally, the procedure to separate the girls would have been delayed until they were three months old, but they were so ill that an immediate operation was their only chance. "We did not have much time. They may not have lasted the night," Professor Spitz said.

Dr Kiely: praised RAF and ambulance service in helping to save twins

The operation took three hours. In earlier cases surgery has lasted up to 18 hours. Because they were so young, the liver was particularly vulnerable, making the complex operation even more difficult.

Despite the pressure of time, Professor Spitz said that the atmosphere in the operating theatre was calm. The surgeons discovered an infection, caused by a perforation of the shared intestine. During surgery it was possible to repair the damage to the intestine of the stronger twin, but the second girl was too ill and will undergo the procedure later. Professor Spitz, 59, said: "We have noticed in the past that one of the twins tends to be stronger than the other."

A hospital spokeswoman said that the girls were in a poorly but stable condition yesterday, having spent a settled night. It is believed that their parents, from the Bristol area, have arrived in London. They do not want to be identified.

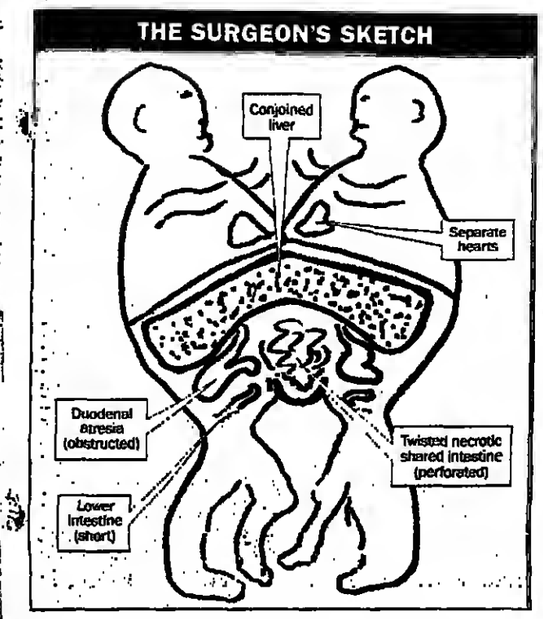
During surgery, each surgeon took responsibility for one twin. At one stage, Mr Kiely was forced to massage the heart of the weaker twin, who came close to death. He sat with her throughout the night, administering tiny quantities of drugs to keep her alive. Earlier, as leader of the surgical team, he had briefed the parents of the girls and explained how their daughters would die without immediate surgery. "I can't imagine what the parents are going through," he said.

The surgeons praised the four anaesthetists involved and said that the role of the RAF and the London Ambulance Service was also crucial. A retrieval team rushed to Bristol by road to assess the twins, who were then flown by helicopter to London.

"If the twins survive, the RAF and ambulance service will have made a large contribution," Mr Kiely said.

At least 15 other sets of Siamese twins have been born or treated in Britain in the past 14 years. In only three cases are both twins still alive.

THE SURGEON'S SKETCH



Charlotte Church, 12, celebrating the double chart success of her album with her pop idol George Michael at a charity ball in London yesterday

Schoolgirl's angelic voice transports her to No 1

By Susie Steiner

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl made music history yesterday by becoming the youngest female singer to reach the top 40 in both the classical and pop charts.

Charlotte Church's collection of classical arias, *Voice of an Angel*, shot to No 1 in the classical chart and went into the pop music chart at No 24. The record, which includes light classical songs such as *Ave Maria*, *Amazing Grace* and *Jerusalem*, was recorded in Charlotte's school holidays and went on sale last Monday. It has sold more than 20,000 copies since and replaced *Back to Titanic* as classical No 1.

"It's brilliant news," Charlotte said. "I never, ever imagined this would happen."

Her manager, Jonathan Shalit, said: "It's unheard of for someone singing this sort of music to sell records so quickly. The record shops were taken by surprise. A lot of them wouldn't stock it because they thought it wouldn't sell but there were massive requests from the public."

Charlotte lives in Cardiff with her mother, who works for the local authority, and her father, who fits office security devices. She attends Howell's School in Llandaff.

She learnt about her success as she recovered from meeting one of her pop idols, George Michael, at a charity ball in London, at which they both sang in aid of a children's charity. "He was really nice," she said. "When I asked him for his autograph he wrote, 'What a voice!!! Love and Good Luck, George.'"

Charlotte's soprano voice was discovered 15 months ago when she performed on a television talent show. Soon afterwards she sang, unaccompanied, during an interview with the president of Sony Records, Paul Burger. Mr Shalit said: "Before she had finished he was dialling the president of Sony Classical in New York." She signed for the label in February.

Funeral chief defends US way of death

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE head of an American multinational funeral service firm has written a letter to every member of the General Synod of the Church of England defending his company's approach to death.

In a five-page letter to all 53 bishops, 259 clergy and 258 laity on the synod, Peter Hindley admits that Service Corporation International, which has acquired 14 per cent of Britain's funeral market, has made mistakes.

But he insists that 99 per cent of his company's clients would use the service again or recommend it to others. He denies strongly that commercial pressures from some funeral directors are discouraging church funerals and undermining the traditional link between the parish priest and the bereaved. "SCI cannot, of course, be blamed for any sense of distance families may feel from their parish church," he says. "SCI is concerned, wherever possible, to build bridges between families and parish clergy."

On Wednesday, synod members meeting in Church House, Westminster, will debate a motion from the Southwark diocese that regrets "the cultural trends and commercial pressures from some funeral directors which discourage funerals in parish churches and which conceal or deny the pastoral and spiritual truths of death and dying." The diocese urges people to make preparations for their own death in co-operation with their local clergy.

£100,000 awaits creative Britons

By Susie Steiner

NICHOLAS KENT, the director of the Tricycle Theatre in North London, has been shortlisted for a Creative Briton award worth £100,000. He has sustained the theatre through the loss of its Arts Council grant in 1984 and a fire in 1987 to the opening of a £3 million arts centre last week.

Twenty candidates, deemed to be key forces in Britain's cultural life, have been shortlisted for funding from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. Six winners, to be announced before Christmas, will receive £20,000 each. An overall winner, to be announced in February, will receive another £80,000.

Mr Kent said of his nomination: "It came on the day I was opening this building so it was a wonderful surprise. The argument in the arts is all about access — we have a multicultural audience and are very much part of the community."

The list of Creative Britons, announced today, includes the musician John Dankworth who, with his jazz-singer wife Cleo Laine, set up a 250-seat music venue at his home. At the Wavendon Allmusic Plan, in the stables adjoining his home in Buckinghamshire, artists including Stephane Grapelli, Jools Holland and Nigel Kennedy have brought new music to an area which lacked a major concert facility.

Peter Florence, another nominee, is credited with "developing a small village affair into one of the most significant arts festivals in the world" — the Hay on Wye literature festival, which had more than 40,000 visitors this year. Mr Florence has gone on to found the London Festival of Literature and the Ledbury Poetry Festival.

The list also includes Sabrina Guinness, who left Hollywood, where she worked in script development, to run YCTV in London, which enables young people without formal education to get into television through work experience.

'Smart' houses to watch the elderly

By Helen Rumbelow

ELDERLY people can now live in "intelligent" houses that watch their daily routine and call relatives if there is an unusual break in it.

The BT computer surveillance scheme, which is co-sponsored by the Anchor Trust, began in 30 homes last month, and may become available to the public next year.

Ken Jennings, 79, one of the first participants in the project, said that he was pleased to have movement sensors in all parts of his Ipswich home, including the front door and the fridge door, as well as smoke and temperature detectors. The sensors report to a central computer in Martlesham, Suffolk, which gradually learns his general routine.

Any serious change to his habits, for example a day when Mr Jennings did not open his fridge, prompts the computer to ring him with a recorded message asking if he needs help.

If he does not answer, or if he dials one for "yes", the computer will ring his daughter.

"It's a wonderful system for anyone living on their own," Mr Jennings said. "The big brother thing doesn't worry me at all because I am in control of the computer. I can even switch it off if I know I want to have a lie in or a nap."

Each user can set their own alert criteria, such as no movement for half an hour. The computers have already noticed one woman, who was normally very active around tea time, suddenly becoming quiet. Her family was alerted and found that she was ill.

"Because it phones them first, it offsets their fear of being a nuisance," said an Anchor Trust spokesman. "It's that extra back-up which gives them the confidence to stay in their own home for longer.

"Overall it could save the Government a huge amount of money because fewer old people will need to be taken into care."

Boy with false leg wins a victory over the FA

By Peter Foster

A BOY aged 12 who was picked for his local football team despite having a false leg has won a battle to be allowed to play by the Football Association.

Sam Burrows is passionate about the game and, despite his disablity, practises incessantly in his garden at home and with other children at his school. Last month he was chosen to play on the wing for Lutterworth Town Youth AFC, but his elation quickly turned to disappointment when he discovered that he had fallen foul of an FA regulation that says players must not wear anything that could injure themselves or others — a rule more usually applied to earings and worn-down boot studs.

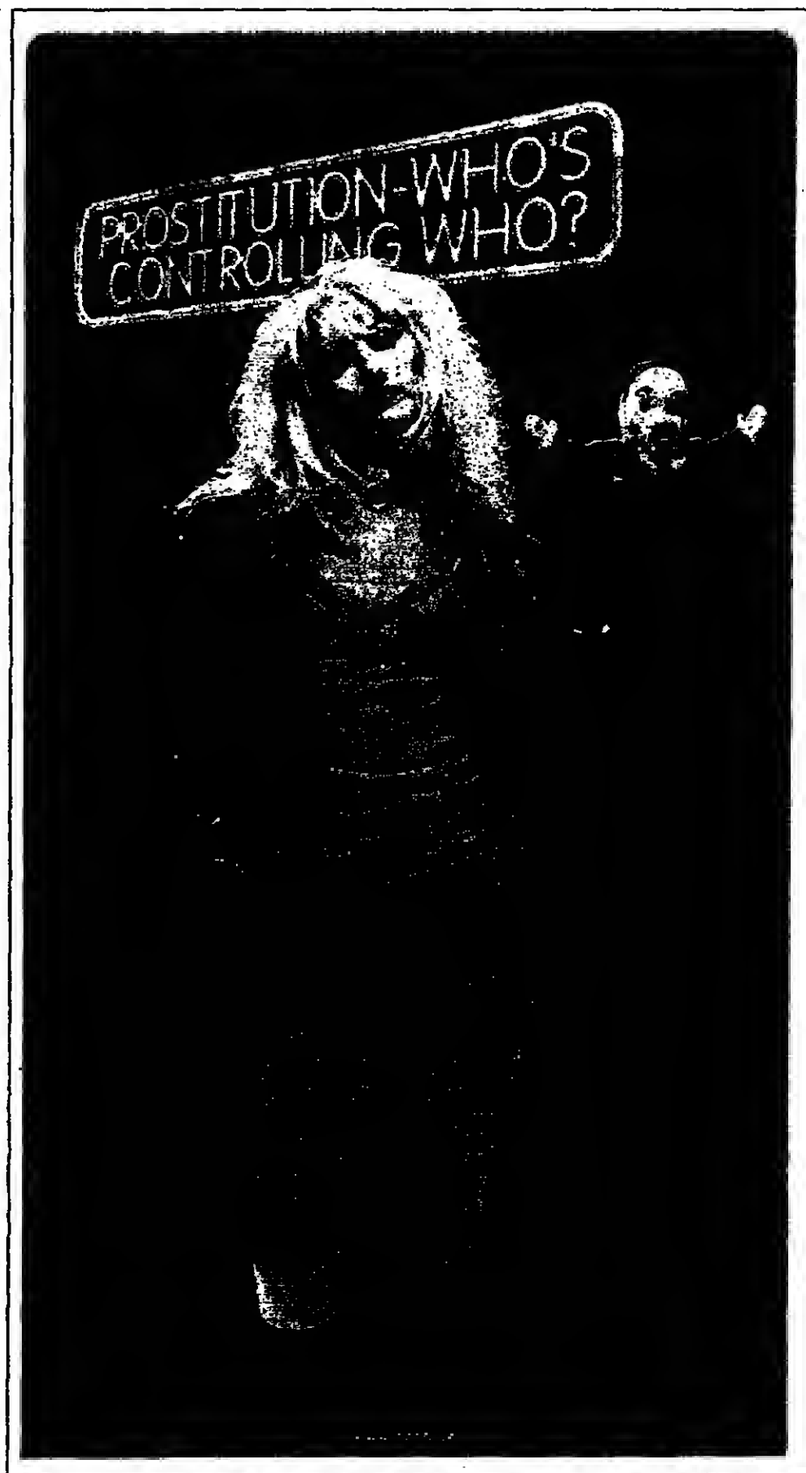
But after three months of lobbying by his father and several doctor's letters, Sam has become the first disabled footballer to play in an cometition officially recognised by the FA. With the paperwork completed, he made his debut last week for Lutterworth Under-13s, playing a full 90 minutes against another local boys' side. Despite losing 6-1 the game was a triumph, according to his father.

What Sam lacks in speed he makes up for with quick ball skills, according to Tony Martin, his team manager. "The lad played magnificently, considering it was his first game. He's a bit slow but that's understandable. He'll be in the side for the next game."

Sam, who is right-footed but can kick with both, had his left foot amputated above the ankle when he was 14 months old. He was born with one leg shorter than the other. Yesterday his father Alan, 51, from Whetstone, Leicestershire, said: "He will never play for England but then neither will 99.9 per cent of the other lads. You have to remember that he is carrying extra weight with the false leg, which makes him slower, but he was impressive and skipped past a few defenders."

The FA is holding a working group chaired by John McDermott, the national development officer, to investigate ways of integrating disabled people into the game. Yesterday he said: "We needed letters from his GP and numerous surgeons before making a decision but I'm delighted to hear he's now played a game. The decision does indeed set a precedent and we now want to see more disabled people taking an active part in football."

Sam Burrows: practises incessantly in his garden



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TV FROM THE HEART

DPP hunts local prosecutors with a mission for justice

Calvert-Smith: focus on women and minorities

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

AN OVERHAUL of the Crown Prosecution Service gets under way this week with the launch of a massive recruitment drive for a new national network of 42 mini-DPPs to restore morale and confidence in the service.

In the biggest top-level selection exercise ever carried out by a Whitehall department, women and ethnic minority lawyers will be a particular target for the key posts which are advertised in *The Times* tomorrow. In a novel move, the potential candidates will have to sit an examination to test their knowledge of the criminal law to ensure they are of the right calibre.

The posts, on a salary range of £35,000 to £90,000, are the crucial appointments in the new organization of the CPS which comes into being in April. Somewhat like American-style district attorneys - although not elected and not political - the new mini-DPPs will be all-powerful in their new local areas which are in line with existing police force areas. They will have responsibility for prosecution decisions and assume a high public profile.

The task of selecting the right people falls to the new DPP, David Calvert-Smith, QC, 53, a former criminal law silk who was headhunted for the job which has become known as a poisoned chalice. In his first interview since taking up the £116,000 a year post on November 1, he said: "We require people with a deep knowledge of the criminal law and with the leadership qualities necessary not just to run a legal department but to hold their own with the other key players in the criminal justice system - the chief constables, chief probation officers and so on.'

They would have to be extremely good criminal lawyers, he added, and that was why they would have to sit an examination, so he could satisfy himself that they came up to scratch. Above all, he wants women and ethnic minority candidates to apply: "I certainly don't want 42 white, middle class, male lawyers like me. If we don't have a good spread by sex and racial origin, then we won't represent the people we serve.

The posts - salaries will average pounds £50-£60,000 but go up to £90,000 for key areas such as London - are in line with recommendations of the recent report on the service by Sir Jain Glidewell, a former Court of Appeal judge.

The report coincided with the early retirement of the last DPP, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, who said the overhaul should be overseen by her successor. But critics felt she had become too identified with the over-centralised, bureaucratic demoralised service to be able to remain to the end of her contract in April next year.

Mr Calvert Smith, who was headhunted for the post, said he did not see it as a poisoned chalice: "I am not in the business of voluntarily committing suicide, like Socrates. I see it as a great opportunity. There is an enormous groundswell of optimism and enthusiasm both in the service and outside it." He also denied he had had his arm-twisted: he was persuaded, he said, by assurances from the Attorney General that the thrust of the Glidewell report would be implemented.

Internet a threat to family life, says rabbi

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, launched an attack last night on the Internet, computer games and personal stereos as tools that contributed to the destruction of family life.

Such modern technological devices were things enjoyed in isolation, he said. "They starve our children of the oxygen of togetherness".

Dr Sacks, launching the first Orthodox Jewish "parenting seminar" in Ravenswood, North London, organised by the Agency for Jewish Education, pleaded for a return to religious ritual to strengthen the family.

He said: "Eating the sabbath meal together, celebrating the festivals at home, reading the Bible to our children — these are among the most powerful bonds between the generations. Present-day culture has no equivalent. The Walkman, computer games and the Internet we enjoy alone."

Dr Sacks, who is helping lead a revival in Orthodox faith and practice within the 300,000-strong Anglo-Jewish community, said: "Families can only flourish on the basis of dedicated time, shared celebration and conversation.

"Religious ritual alone makes these a matter of duty. It protects what otherwise is being rapidly eroded, sacred times which are the breath of family life."

Dr Sacks, echoing many of the sentiments voiced also by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, called on voluntary bodies and religious groups to lead the way in extolling parenthood as the highest form of moral responsibility.

"We must teach lost skills, restate forgotten values and rescue parenthood from the bonfire of responsibilities," he said, warning that the high divorce and illegitimacy rates showed that society had gone too far in honouring freedom of adults at the expense of the security of children.

"A society is judged by the way it cares for its most vulnerable members, of whom children, especially in their early years, are among the most exposed. The mounting evidence is making it clearer by the year that we are in the process of creating two nations: those who have the support of a stable, two-parent family, and those who don't. With few exceptions, the first will have an advantage in almost every sphere of life."

Ulrika Jonsson pressing the button to launch ONdigital at Crystal Palace yesterday

First digital TV service walks on air

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE world's first digital terrestrial television service made a low-key launch yesterday with no party and only a few thousand viewers.

However, most of the planned 30 channels, which can be received on conventional television aerials with a digital set-top box, came on during the day on schedule. To provide some visual evidence to mark the launch of ONdigital, the main commercial service, Ulrika Jonsson switched on neon lights used to pick out the outline of the Crystal Palace transmitter in London.

"It's going better than we thought. We are on air and it works and people clearly want it," Stephen Grabiner, chief exefutive of ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial service said yesterday. At midnight on Friday Mr Grabiner was at the Kensington High Street branch of Radio Rentals to watch the first digital terrestrial receivers being sold and rented. Dixons Oxford Street branch sold out of the small numbers of digital terrestrial receivers available yesterday.

OnDigital, which is broadcasting a total of 15 channels, believes about 10,000 receivers were available for the launch. With more than 4,000 stores needing at least one display model each the numbers available for the launch day were small. "They walked off the shelves as quickly as we could supply them," ONdigital said yesterday. Only one of the main five suppliers, Philips, managed to produce receivers in volume in time for the launch although Pace Micro Electronics produced a small number. Pace is expected to manufacture 18,000 in the coming week and Toshiba, Sony and Nokia are all expected to be producing in volume just before Christmas. ONdigital hopes that around 70,000 receivers will be in the shops before the end of the year.

A shortage of components is being being blamed for the shortage of equipment. Apart from the 15 ONdigital channels, which includes premium channels from Sky such as Sky Sports and Sky movies and channels from the main ONdigital partners Carlton and Granada, digital terrestrial will also deliver new channels from the BBC, ITV, and Channel 4.

The BBC is broadcasting BBC Choice, News 24 and from the spring BBC Learning in digital. The new ITV channel ITV 2 will start broadcasting on December 7 and FilmFour, Channel 4's new subscription film service devoted to independent films, costs £5.99 a month.

There has been uncertainly about how many people will be able to receive the entire 30-channel digital terrestral service. So far, ONdigital says, the indications are that reception is significantly better than the theoretical engineering predictations. Moreover, there have only been a handful of people needing new aerials.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman driver hit by brick

A woman was badly injured in the face when a brick thrown from a motorway bridge smashed through the windscreen of her car. Kathy Hall, 29, had extensive surgery to rebuild her jaw after the incident on the M602 motorway near Eccles, Greater Manchester. She was believed to be returning to her home in Liverpool after going to the theatre.

Her jaw was smashed, she had serious injuries to the left side of her face and lost several teeth. Ms Hall was taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Aspinall dying

John Aspinall, 72, the millionaire and animal park owner, is seriously ill in hospital suffering from cancer. Mr Aspinall, who owned casinos with Sir James Goldsmith, has admitted, in a television interview to be screened this week, that he is "close to death".

Euthanasia fear

Family doctors in Britain have helped up to 27,000 patients to die, a study has claimed. The Britosh Medical Association will now to draw up a set of rules on when doctors can withdraw treatment, after finding widespread confusion among its members.

Painkiller abuse

Pharmacists have given warning of a "potentially huge abuse problem" with drug addicts misusing the popular painkiller Nurofen Plus. The warning comes after it was discovered that the drug, made of ibruprofen and codeine, could be split into its different parts.

999 time wasters

Up to 80 per cent of 999 calls to the police are not real emergencies and the misuse of the service is costing millions of pounds each a year, says a report by the ITV programme *World in Action*. They include a woman reporting that a cat had crept into her house.

Release hope

An Italian judge has ruled that a British woman sentenced to 11 years' jail for drug trafficking had been wrongly convicted. However, Ruth Sandberg, 36, of Colchester, Essex, will be kept in prison near Milan until it is decided whether she must face a retrial.

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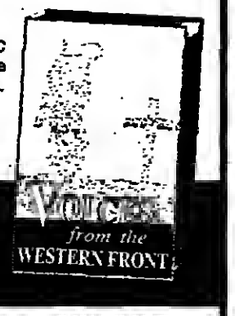

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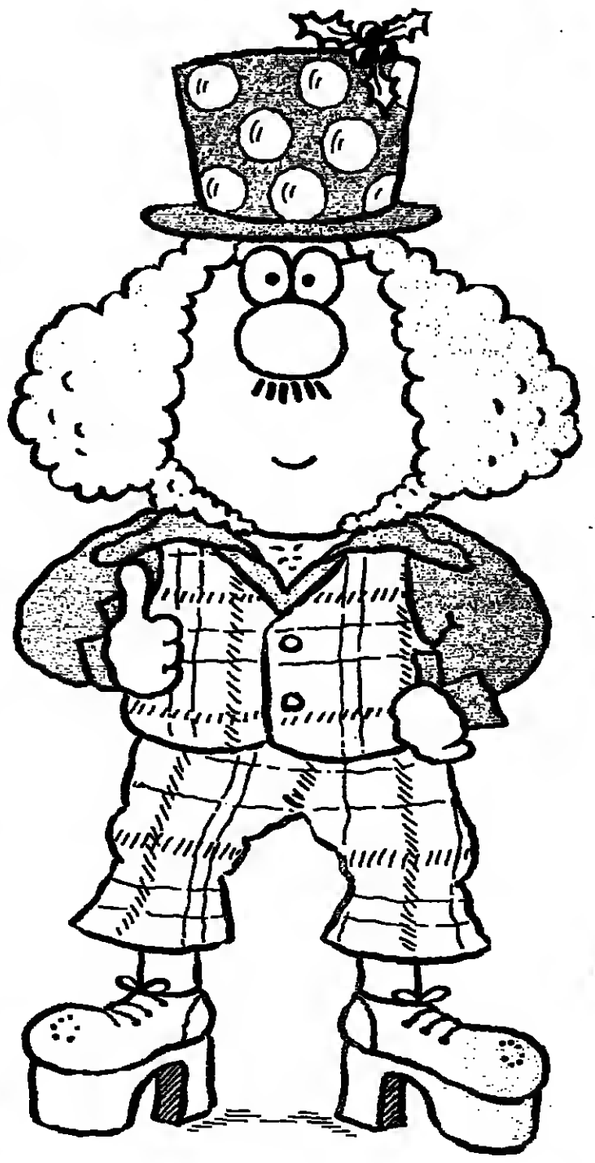

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Commons to vote on grammar schools

By Victoria Fletcher

GRAMMAR schools across Britain will learn this week whether parents will be given the power to turn them comprehensive.

The Commons is to vote tomorrow afternoon on whether a petition of 20 per cent of parents from grammar schools' hinterlands should prompt ballots by parents on their futures. A vote against the grammar school would force it to stop selecting the best local pupils and turn comprehensive.

For generations grammar schools have achieved excellent results and dominated school league tables, but critics claim that their ability to cream off the best local pupils divides communities, puts pressure on children taking the 11-plus examination and depresses the results of local non-selective state schools.

Many of the oldest and most successful of Britain's 166 state grammar schools are worried that there is enough local resentment to trigger a ballot. Ripon Grammar School in North Yorkshire has faced a campaign to abolish it for five years. To date, meetings of anti-grammar school protesters and local councillors have made no changes, but under the proposed regulations it is likely that one fifth of parents would petition for a ballot, which would in turn end its grammar school status.

Before coming to power, Labour promised an end to selective education. David Blunkett, speaking at the Labour conference in 1995, said: "Watch my lips — no selection, by examination or interview."

But anti-grammar school campaigners said that the proposals to go before the Commons tomorrow are weighted in favour of grammar schools.

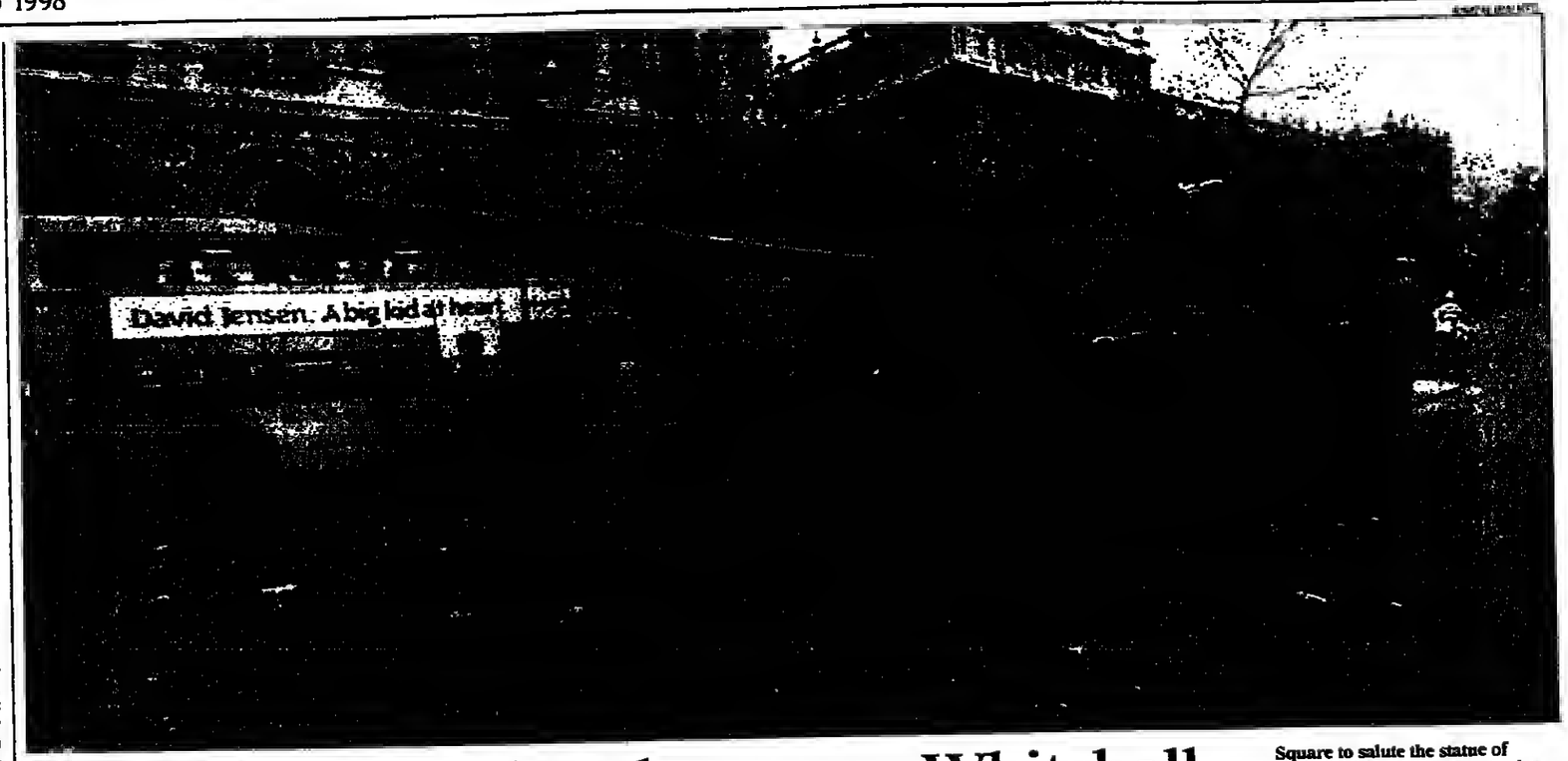
Roy Hattersley, of the Campaign for State Education, said that, in areas where less than 25 per cent of schools are selective, only parents from "feeder" primary schools — those which have sent at least five pupils to the local grammar school in the previous year — would be allowed to petition and vote in the ballot. This would exclude more that 200,000 parents. However, he said he was confident that Mr Blunken was still in favour of comprehensives.

John Coe, of the National Association for Primary Education, agreed that the voting criteria were too selective."Their votes ought to be decisive. We want to see selection end as, we think, do the majority of primary school teachers and parents," he said.

"In Kingston you have an influx of children coming across the boundaries into Kingston's grammar schools. Parents in the surrounding rural areas can't get their children into these schools if they wanted to.

"However, under the five-pupil rule, half of these parents who live two minutes away from what should be their local school won't even get a say in what type of schooling the area gets. It's really unfair."

Leading article, page 23



Tanks advance on Whitehall

A Challenger 2 tank taking up position in Whitehall yesterday under the watchful eye of an officer, before it and a veteran 1918 Mark V paraded in the centre of London for the first time since the First World War victory parade of 1919. The two tanks drove down Whitehall for a special remembrance service at the Cenotaph to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Great War. The vintage and modern tanks were joined by several hundred past and present members of The Royal Tank Regiment, including 104-year-old Captain Norman Edwards, the oldest surviving member of the Tank Corps. After the service, the Challenger 2 drove along Whitehall, dipping its gun in salute as it passed the Cenotaph and then again in Parliament Square to salute the statue of Winston Churchill. It was during the Great War that the first tanks were introduced to the battlefield, after Churchill decided in 1915 to develop an armoured fighting vehicle that could break the stalemate of trench warfare on the Western Front.

Fraud trial judge to be pensioned off

By Warwick Mansell

A JUDGE who escaped prosecution for a £1 million mortgage fraud because he was a suicide risk is about to retire early on a lucrative pension.

Judge Richard Gee is completing the details of a pension plan that will allow him to retire aged 56.

A spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said that the circuit judge, whose trial at the Old Bailey was halted last month on the instructions of the Attorney-General, John Morris, after a psychiatrist said that continuing with it would have put his life in danger, had the same pension rights as other judges. He was a member of a non-contributory fund that would pay out an initial lump sum or an index-linked annuity, and was entitled to seek early retirement.

Discussions were taking place between the department and Judge Gee over his retirement, and an announcement was expected "in the next few weeks". He has continued to draw his £87,000 salary since his suspension in 1995.

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Guests at the Prince's party, from left, included Stephen Fry, Princess and Prince Michael of Kent, Peter Mandelson, Princess Margaret, Selina Scott and the Duchess of Kent, who said: "Everyone had a marvellous time. It was superb"

ADRIAN SHERRATT

A night for jewels, but not the crown

The Queen did not attend but, as **Claudia Joseph** reports, the royal birthday party hosted by Camilla Parker Bowles was a big success

WITH her hair coiffured, diamonds sparkling around her neck and a dazzling smile, Camilla Parker Bowles stepped out of the background at the weekend to host the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party.

Although it was billed as a private event, the occasion will be seen as another milestone as Mrs Parker Bowles took on her most high-profile role yet. Not only did she act as the Prince's consort for one of the biggest gatherings of European royalty in recent years, but she played hostess to senior members of the Royal Family.

Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Lady Helen Taylor and her husband, Tim, and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent all attended the party. The Duchess of Kent said yesterday: "It was absolutely stunning. The food was wonderful. Everyone had a marvellous time." Asked if the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles enjoyed themselves, she added: "Of course, it was superb."

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh did not attend the party, for fear of publicly condoning the relationship, and spent the weekend at Sandringham. They had not invited Mrs Parker Bowles to a birthday reception they held at Buckingham Palace the previous evening. The Princess Royal was also absent on Saturday night, as she was holding a party at Windsor Castle to celebrate the 21st birthday of her son Peter. The Duke of York was on a royal visit to New Zealand and Prince Edward was in Malta representing the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

Mrs Parker Bowles was chauffeured into Highgrove with her sister, Annabel Elliot, at about 6pm. She ordered her driver to slow down for photographers. It was in stark contrast to her appearance at Hampton Court two days earlier, for the first of the birthday celebrations, when she entered through a side door.

Prince William, who arrived in combat gear and an Aston Villa hat before changing into black tie, was less happy to be pictured. Prince Harry was escorted by his father's deputy private secretary, Mark Boland, and Tom and Laura Parker Bowles in a 20-seater bus packed with their friends.

More than 250 guests attended the function in the Orchard Room, including Peter Mandelson, Selina Scott, Emma Thompson, Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir David Frost, who did not present his breakfast television show yesterday. Other guests included Tiggy Legge-Bourke, Charles and Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, their daughters Tara and Santa and the latter's husband, Simon Sebag-Montefiore.

They were treated to a meal of smoked wild salmon, organic lamb and raspberry compote, prepared by Anton Mosimann, the Prince's favourite chef, and drank champagne as they watched sketches by Rory Bremner, Stephen Fry and Rowan Atkinson. Afterwards, the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles stepped onto the dance floor to a ripple of applause to the sound of an Abba song.

In another symbol of her new status, Mrs Parker Bowles was reported to be wearing a diamond necklace that once belonged to her great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, who had an open 12-year affair with Edward VII. Mrs Keppel met the then Prince of Wales over dinner in February 1898 and they conducted a relationship after he was crowned until his death in 1910. Mrs Parker Bowles is alleged to have mentioned the affair when introduced to the Prince of Wales in 1972, saying: "My great-grandmother was your great, great-grandfather's mistress, so how about it?"

Yesterday, there was more support for the idea that the couple might eventually marry. Gary Streeter, 43, a senior Conservative and devout Christian who set up his own evangelical church in Plymouth, said that they should be allowed to marry in church. In an interview on GMTV's *The Sunday Review*, the Shadow Secretary for International Development said: "Everyone is entitled to a second chance, aren't they? I very much hope we will have a future King who can find happiness in his personal life. If they want to marry, they should be allowed to marry. Whether she becomes Queen is a constitutional issue that I think is worthy of some debate, but let them be happy."

Mr Streeter's comments came after the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, became the first bishop to speak publicly in support of a marriage. He said that it would be "more desirable morally" for the couple to marry.

Letters, page 23

Mrs Parker Bowles arriving with her sister: her necklace was reported to belong to an ancestor who had a royal affair

RAF may lose Queen's Flight to private sector

MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE RAF squadron that flies the Royal Family, ministers and senior military staff could be replaced by a private company offering a cheaper deal.

The possibility that a company such as Richard Branson's Virgin Group could take over the Queen's Flight operation emerged yesterday when a Ministry of Defence advertisement appeared in *Flight International* magazine asking for suggestions from interested parties.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, revealed on BBC1's *On The Record* programme that the Royal Household had asked the MoD to look into alternative ways of running the operation. The Royal Household pays for the Royal Family's use of 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt, West London, which this year will cost £13.4 million.

MoD sources said that, although total privatisation was an "extreme" option, it was a possibility. The sources indicated, however, that whatever solution was agreed, it was likely that RAF pilots would still fly the aircraft carrying the Royal Family and that the planes would stay at Northolt. The MoD will remain responsible for the flight's security.

Mr Robertson said: "The RAF will clearly want to have an input and, as Defence Secretary, so will I."

The squadron is also used by Tony Blair, his Cabinet ministers and the most senior military officers. The Government pays the bulk of its running costs.

The MoD is looking for initial proposals by November 23 and a decision is expected by April. A Virgin Group spokesman said that Mr Branson's airline, Virgin Atlantic, might be interested.

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Sixty years on, Newbury gets bypass at last

Police are prepared for disruptions, but residents are in a mood to celebrate, reports **Helen Johnstone**

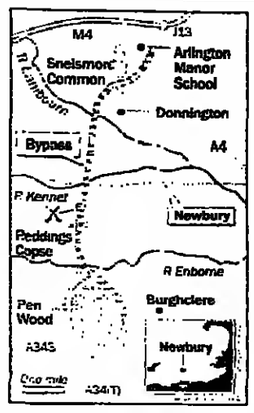
POLICE are converging on a former battlefield to prepare for the official opening of the most expensive stretch of rural bypass ever built in Britain.

Sixty-two years and two public inquiries after the idea was first mooted, the £100 million Newbury bypass will open to a fanfare of congratularions from locals and the threat of disruption from protesters who delayed its construction.

No official date has been given by the Highways Agency, although the low-key opening is thought to be imminent. Police are preparing for any eventuality. Coachloads of security guards are reportedly standing by and helicopters have been patrolling the area, which skirts the site of First Battle of Newbury in 1643, when forces of the Earl of Essex, returning to London from the siege of Gloucester, were blocked by Royalists.

Superintendent Mervyn Edwards, a Thames Valley officer posted to police the bypass three years ago, expects to see a few familiar faces from his own battle at Newbury in January 1996. Thousands of protesters from all over the country, including many dug in at 35 camps along its 8½-mile route, engaged in running battles with police and contractors sent to clear 10,000 trees. At the height of the main confrontation, which lasted nearly four months, almost 1,000 people were arrested as bailiffs evicted protesters from trees. The worst recorded casualty was a bailiff who fell from a tree, breaking a small bone in his back.

A fifth of the £100 million cost went on security, which included private guards who are still on site and fencing the entire route. The fencing is being kept to keep deer and other wildlife off the road. The bypass also involved the most extensive environmental project undertaken on a road building project.



Among 15 species protected, Desmoulin's whorl snails were moved to a new habitat and adders and grass snakes relocated. Sites of special scientific interest at Snelsmore Common and on the banks of the Rivers Kennet and Lambourn were protected, and flints of a Stone Age site discovered at Lambourn Valley were preserved.

Stephen Rowsell, the project director, who employed 5,000 workers, is celebrating finishing on time, despite some of the wettest weather on record. He is also proud of the environmental achievements, with 200,000 trees planted.

"A lot of lessons have been learnt, which will be used on other schemes," he said. "The snakes are apparently very happy and the snails are breeding like rabbits. English Nature is very pleased. We all had common aims in terms of wanting minimum impact on the environment. But I disagree with the way some people resorted to illegal methods at huge expense to the taxpayer."

Newbury has pledged to pedestrianise its main street within hours of the bypass opening. The town's 27,000 inhabitants expect more than 250,000 vehicles a week to be taken out of the town, including 400 lorries per hour, on what was the only remaining section of single carriageway on the A34 between the Midlands and the South Coast.

Peter Gilmour, a spokesman for Newbury District Council, said that retailers had unanimously agreed to pedestrianisation immediately, despite the danger of disrupting Christmas trade. He said: "We are optimistic it will be done by the end of the week. The town has always been in favour of the bypass. All the surveys showed five out of six people wanted it."

Mr Edwards, who expects to return to normal duties after the opening, still has two full-time officers in the area. There were 18 at the height of the protest, with up to 400 extra officers being drafted in daily. "I have found the job challenging, enjoyable and fascinating. The protesters said it was going to be the biggest road protest the country had ever seen and it lived up to that." One thousand and fourteen people have been arrested since the operation began, including about two dozen private security guards and a small number of contractors.

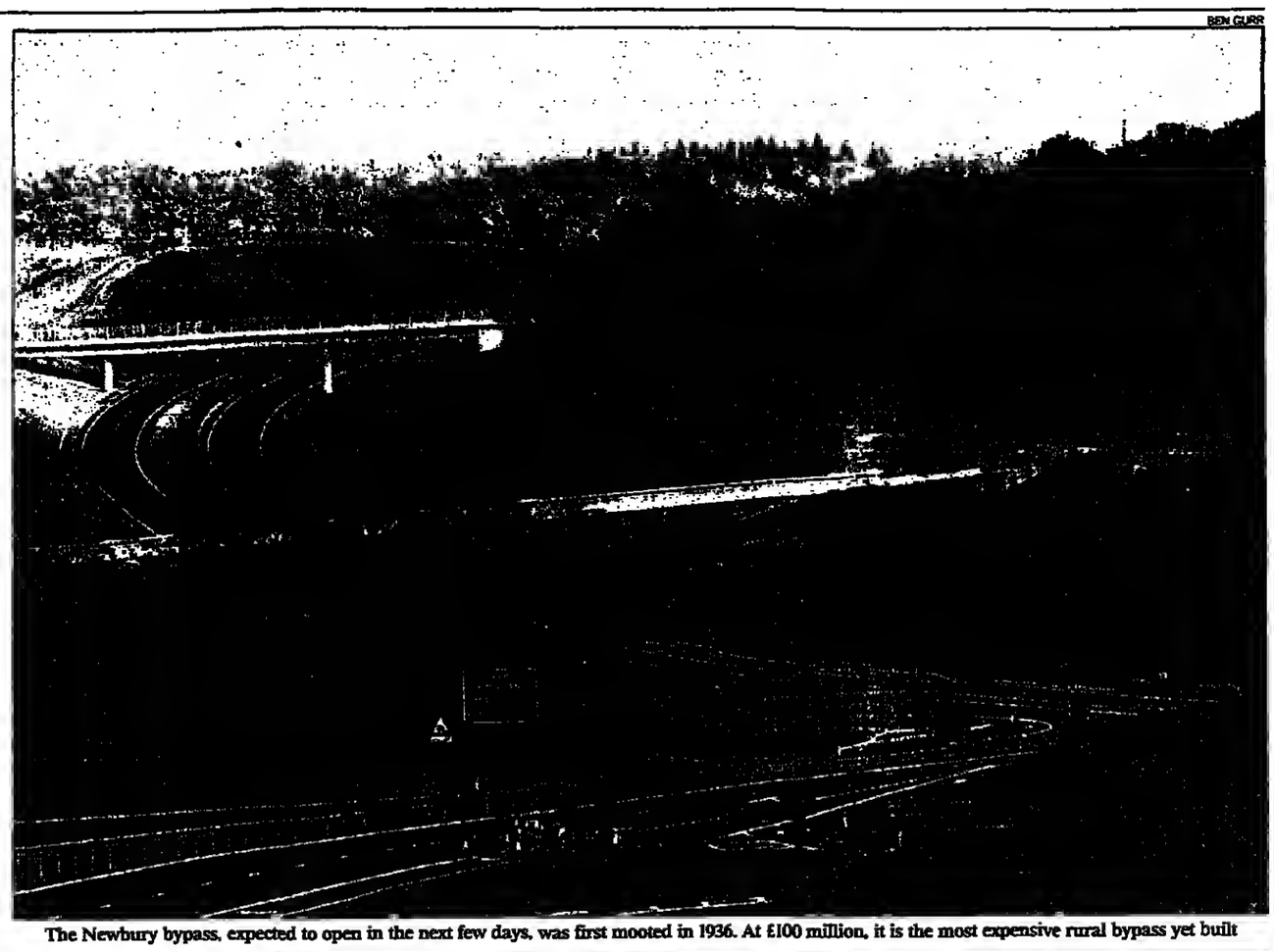
The last arrest was several months ago; few protesters have been seen in recent months. Mr Edwards added: "Over the years we have got to know some of them. While there is a hard core who will stop at nothing, the vast majority are really nice, good, intelligent kids."

Thames Valley Police, which shared the £7 million cost of policing the site with the Hampshire force, hopes that the opening will pass quietly. "We are planning for any eventuality. They said they would be back for the opening and we are prepared."

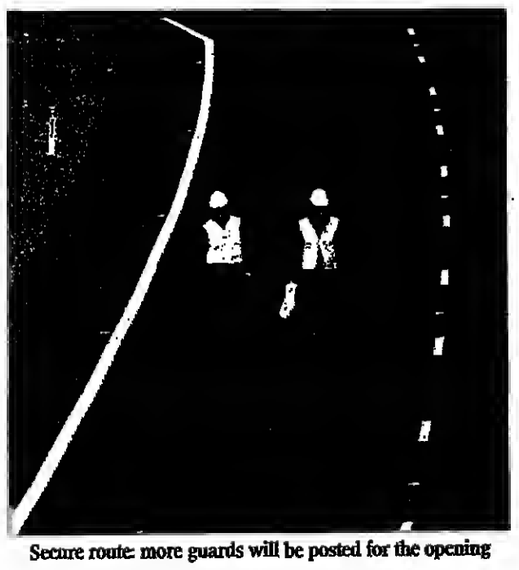
Protesters were last night keeping quiet about their plans. A spokesman said: "There will be a presence, including many who were involved in direct action at the beginning." However, they will not include Newbury veterans such as Muppet Dave, who is now engaged with the route of the proposed Birmingham North Relief Road.

Speaking by mobile phone from his headquarters up a newly threatened tree, he said: "I am not leaving Birmingham. I can't leave here for an hour, never mind a day."

BEN GURR



The Newbury bypass, expected to open in the next few days, was first mooted in 1936. At £100 million, it is the most expensive rural bypass yet built



Secure route: more guards will be posted for the opening

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- ☐ **History:** first mooted in 1936. Took three years to build, starting in 1995.
- ☐ **Project costs:** a total of £100 million, including £20 million on security.
- ☐ **Police costs:** £7.5 million. Three officers continuously employed since September 1995. At height of protest, 18 employed full-time and up to 400 daily.
- ☐ **Arrests:** 1,014 since September 1995, including 832 during the four-month clearance period between January and April 1996.
- ☐ **Trees:** 10,000 were cut down during construction, but 200,000 have been planted.
- ☐ **Wildlife:** 15 separate species were protected, including badgers, otters, snakes and snails.
- ☐ **Employment:** the workforce employed on construction of the road was 5,000; approximately 500 working on any given day.
- ☐ **Traffic effects:** the completed road should reduce traffic in Newbury by 250,000 vehicles a week, including 400 lorries an hour during peak hours.
- ☐ **Support:** surveys suggested five out of six local people wanted the road.
- ☐ **Protesters:** protesters lived in 35 camps on the route. At one point there were 6,000 protesters.

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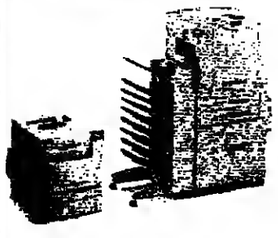


HEWLETT PACKARD
Expanding Possibilities

Police chief defends Hillsborough role

By Russell Jenkins

NORMAN BETTISON, who starts his job as Chief Constable of Merseyside today, has appealed to the families of Hillsborough victims to meet him at any time and any place to resolve the festering row over his appointment.

The Hillsborough Families Support Group claims that, after the football stadium disaster in 1989 in which 96 people died, Mr Bettison was in a special police unit that tried to cover up police errors and blame the Liverpool fans. Three members of the Merseyside Police Authority have resigned, saying that he should have been more forthcoming when interviewed for the job.

However, Mr Bettison says that Maria Eagle, the Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, who criticised his appointment in the Commons, has since admitted that she is impressed by his "willingness to be open", and agreed that the sooner he meets the families, the better.

The 42-year-old police officer, son of a Rotherham steelworker, spoke yesterday of his growing frustration at a political campaign to stop him taking up the post.

He said: "All that has been in the public domain is speculation and rumour born of the statement made by Maria Eagle. She made it with parliamentary privilege and never repeated any of the allegations.

"No one else has done anything but repeated that House of Commons speech. No evidence to substantiate that main statement has been forthcoming. I know that because there is no evidence to substantiate these allegations.

"They are simply not true and the more time has gone on, over the five weeks between the appointment and now, the more I have wanted to go to the people of Merseyside to lay the ghost."

An approach to Ms Eagle appears to have broken the deadlock and opened the way to meetings in the next few weeks. "This furore has been unfortunate for me and unfortunate for Merseysiders. It must have been downright distressing for the families and their supporters. What I want to say to them is, 'This is what I actually did in two to three mooths following the Hillsborough disaster.' I hope their reaction will be similar to that expressed by Maria Eagle when she finally saw the whites of my eyes."

Eagle: accepts Bettison's willingness to be open

He says he particularly wants to meet Trevor Hicks, the leader of the support group, and other families. He has never sought to divert blame on to fans, he insists. Asked whether he has anything to be ashamed of in his record as a police officer for South Yorkshire, he replies: "No, not one iota."

On the day of the disaster, Mr Bettison was a spectator in the South Stand, close to the Leppings Lane End where the deaths occurred. He immediately reported to the nearest police station and began the task of reuniting anguished families with their missing friends and relatives.

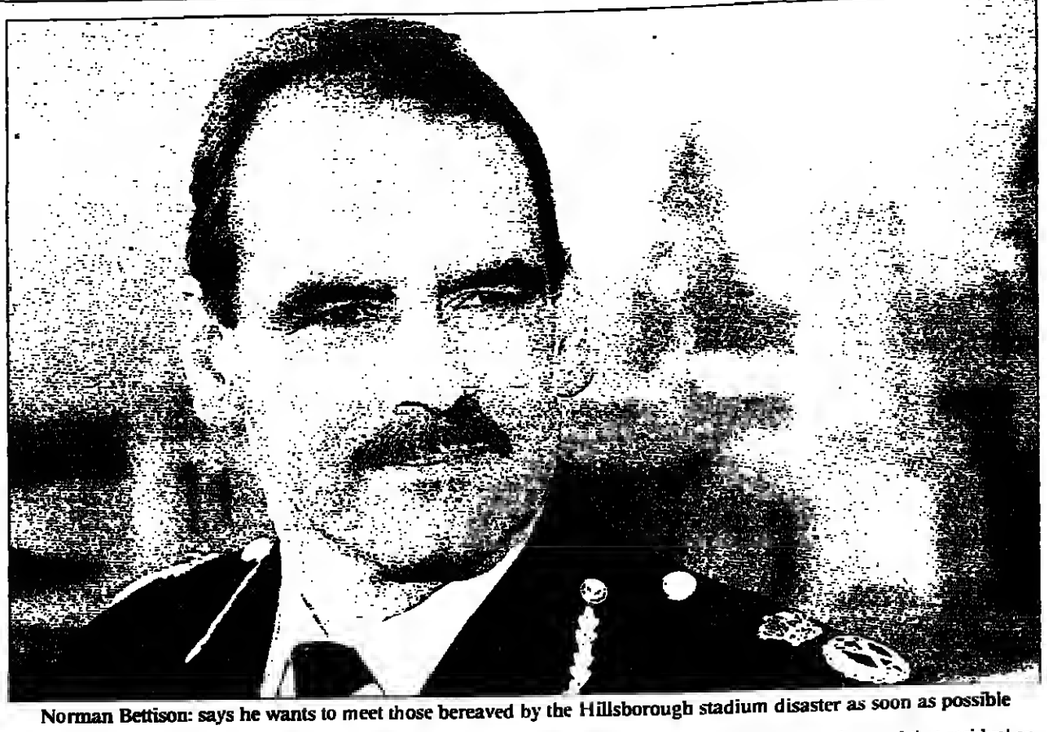
Subsequently he was seconded to an internal South Yorkshire Police unit set up primarily, he insists, to make some sense of what had happened on the day and review procedures. "You have to remember it was a topsy-turvy time for South Yorkshire Police as an organisation," said Mr Bettison, whose role was to review and rewrite the major incident manual.

"I was not involved in planning a strategy for solicitors or agreeing a brief for them," he said. "I have never attempted to shift the blame from South Yorkshire Police into any other area, particularly the area of the fans."

His record was available to the members of the police authority who interviewed him for chief constable, he says. He had been perfectly prepared to talk about his experiences but, he says, was more concerned to stress his fitness for high office through his experience as a first officer.

"South Yorkshire Police accepted publicly and forcefully the blame that Lord Justice Taylor charged them with," he said. "I understand the depth of feeling and anger that pervades, particularly here on Merseyside, about the fact that no individual has ever been convicted or held to account formally before a court. I understand that residual anger and frustration.

"I had no idea until I was appointed that any of that could be focused on me. I want the opportunity, as quickly as possible, to show to the families how unjustified that is."



JULIAN HAMILTON

Norman Bettison: says he wants to meet those bereaved by the Hillsborough stadium disaster as soon as possible

Forces may seek new blood from the boardroom

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

BUSINESS executives could be headhunted from big companies to become chief constables and senior police commanders under reforms being debated by a Home Office group.

Suitable candidates might go straight to the top job or become assistant chief constables and be trained in police work with the possibility of promotion later. The idea is to improve the standard of leadership.

Other options include sending officers on secondment to gain business experience and, likewise, bringing in civilian executives for placements in areas such as finance, technology and personnel.

Introducing new blood from the boardroom is among possible reforms to be considered by a new joint working party of police, Home Office officials and members of police authorities set up by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The group has been told that ministers expect nothing to be excluded from its study.

The working party was formed because Mr Straw and his senior police officials are alarmed at the poverty of talent applying for top jobs. He is concerned that the next generation lacks management and financial skills to improve efficiency.

Police authorities have also expressed concern that too many senior officers lack individuality or experience of life outside the police. One worry is that up to half the officers trained as possible senior officers never apply for posts or refuse to change forces.

Catherine Crawford, secretary of the Association of Police Authorities and a member of the group working party, said: "We have decided not to rule anything out."

Any changes might need legislation and the Home Office would also have to increase salaries to compete with the commercial world.

Last century chief officers were not required to have police training and, as recently as 1944, Sir Harold Scott, a civil servant, was appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner. In the 1980s Margaret Thatcher, as Prime Minister, suggested recruiting redundant military officers as senior policemen. Whitehall and the police were hostile to the idea, arguing that they would lack relevant experience.

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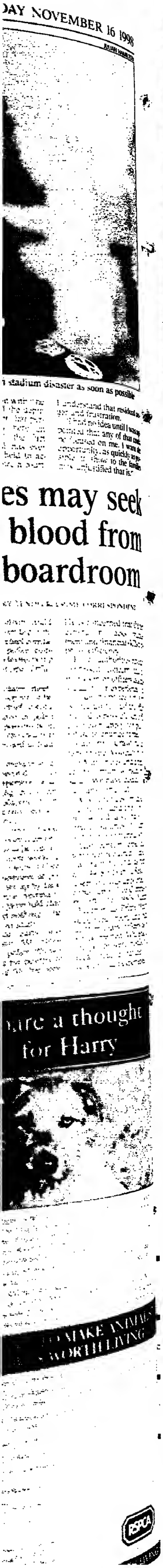

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V&A treasures 'jeopardised by security cuts'

Staff warn of plans to scrap weekend and night patrols at depot, reports Dalya Alberge

STAFF at the Victoria and Albert Museum have given a warning that millions of objects are being put at risk by plans to privatise security arrangements.

It is feared that weekend and night patrols will be scrapped at a repository housing one of the nation's most important collections of Oriental art, textiles and furniture.

The warning comes five days after the musuem admitted that two of its Constable oil sketches, *Dedham Lock and Mill* and *Sketch for Valley Farm*, had been stolen. Their combined value was £800,000.

A security guard at the musuem claims that it is proposed to lay off guards at Blythe House, a sprawling warehouse in Olympia, West London. He said that the repository, which is almost as large as Harrods, was shared with the British Museum and the Science Museum.

He said that last Friday, when the V&A was still searching its premises in case the two Constables had only been mislaid, 16 guards at the museum were told of a decision to privatise security arrangements once the V&A took over the administration of the repository from the British Museum in March. The V&A was already planning similar moves for its other repositories, he said.

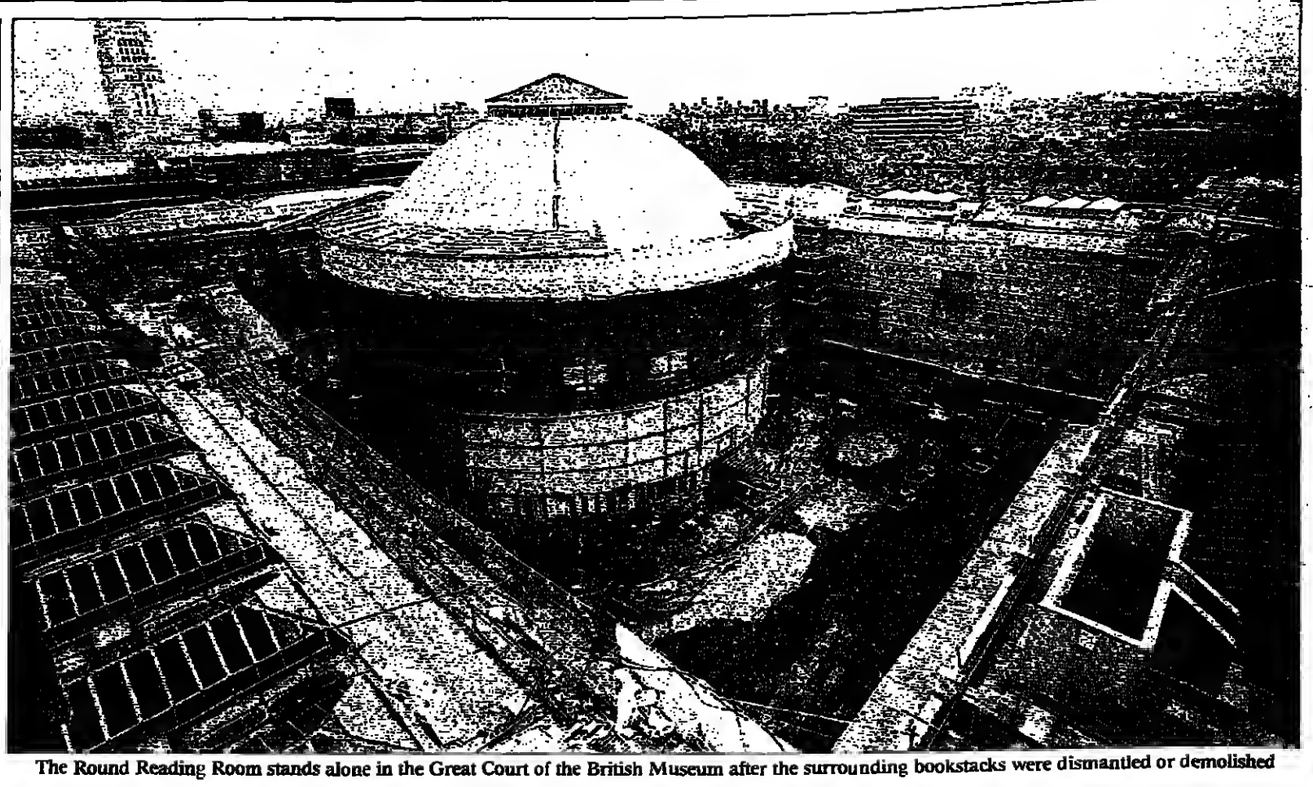
He alleged that the museum planned to install alarm systems at the expense of manpower: "If there is a flood over a weekend, alarms won't pick that up. No one will discover it until Monday morning, when it will be too late. As 80 per cent of the objects are not even in showcases, it would be a disaster." There had been quite a few floods in the past that "were caught in time. It's so short-sighted, when you see what's in there. We're appalled."

He said that the move was about cost-cutting: "They could cut an hourly rate of £7 or £8 to £4.50, doing away with pensions and sick pay."

The repository is inside the old Post Office Savings Bank, a Victorian building in which Lord Attenborough's *Chaplin* was partly filmed. The guard said that the rooms were alarmed, but the objects were on open show: a collection ranging from the largest textile collection in Europe to Samurai swords was available for public viewing by appointment. The guard said that, although the British Museum had offered jobs to the guards at Great Russell Street, staff remained dismayed at the decision.

Alan Borg, director of the V&A, confirmed yesterday that privatisation of security was being examined and said staff were bound to be concerned. "What we would be looking for is a service as good, if not better, than what we currently have . . . At the moment, there are no plans to change the nature of security cover."

He said that the museum was in the earliest stages of discussions with various private security firms, and he dismissed the suggestion that night and weekend patrols would go. But, asked to give an assurance that the museum would never contemplate such a move, he said: "There is no such thing as 'never'."



ROBIN MATHER

The Round Reading Room stands alone in the Great Court of the British Museum after the surrounding bookstacks were dismantled or demolished

Demolition reveals museum's Great Court

By Marcus Binney

THE Great Court of the British Museum, unseen for 150 years, has been restored to its original two-acre expanse by the demolition of the giant bookstack blocks around the Round Reading Room.

In one of the most delicate demolition jobs undertaken in London, iron and concrete bookstacks up to six storeys high were dismantled, cut up or crushed. While some of the 1,500 lorryloads of debris was lifted out by a crane in the museum's forecourt, most had to be carried out through two narrow basement tunnels. On English Heritage's instructions, the museum dismantled the 141-year-old wrought-iron bookcases, which filled a quarter of the courtyard and were listed in their own right.

They were taken to Biggin Hill, where they are available to anyone who wishes to reerect them. Once a quarter of the courtyard had been opened, three large excavators were lifted in pieces over the museum's roof into the court. They demolished the remaining concrete bookstacks, which had been built before and after the Second World War.

Carl Wright, of MACE, the management contractor, said: "The excavator drivers are very skilled. They had to break down parts of the structure to build up platforms of debris to reach the top of the bookstacks, which were 20 metres above ground." The use of pneumatic hammers, however, was stopped when Greek statues in the museum's galleries began shaking.

In 1852, 30 years after the present museum opened, the architect Sir Charles Barry suggested covering the courtyard with a glass roof like that of the Crystal Palace, but the museum's keeper of printed books, Antonio Panizzi, demanded that the courtyard be used for a new reading room. Designed by Sir Sydney Smirke, it will be preserved complete with all its handsome fittings. A public art library will fill the ground floor, while the two upper levels will house the museum's working library. It is intended that the public library remain open late, with computer terminals providing information on the museum's collections.

After excavations to create underground lecture theatres, the Great Court will be covered with a steel and glass lattice roof, inset with 6,040 triangular panes of glass. The £97 million project, masterminded by Sir Norman Foster, is due for completion in the summer of 2000.

Posthumous surprise left in author's desk

By John Shaw

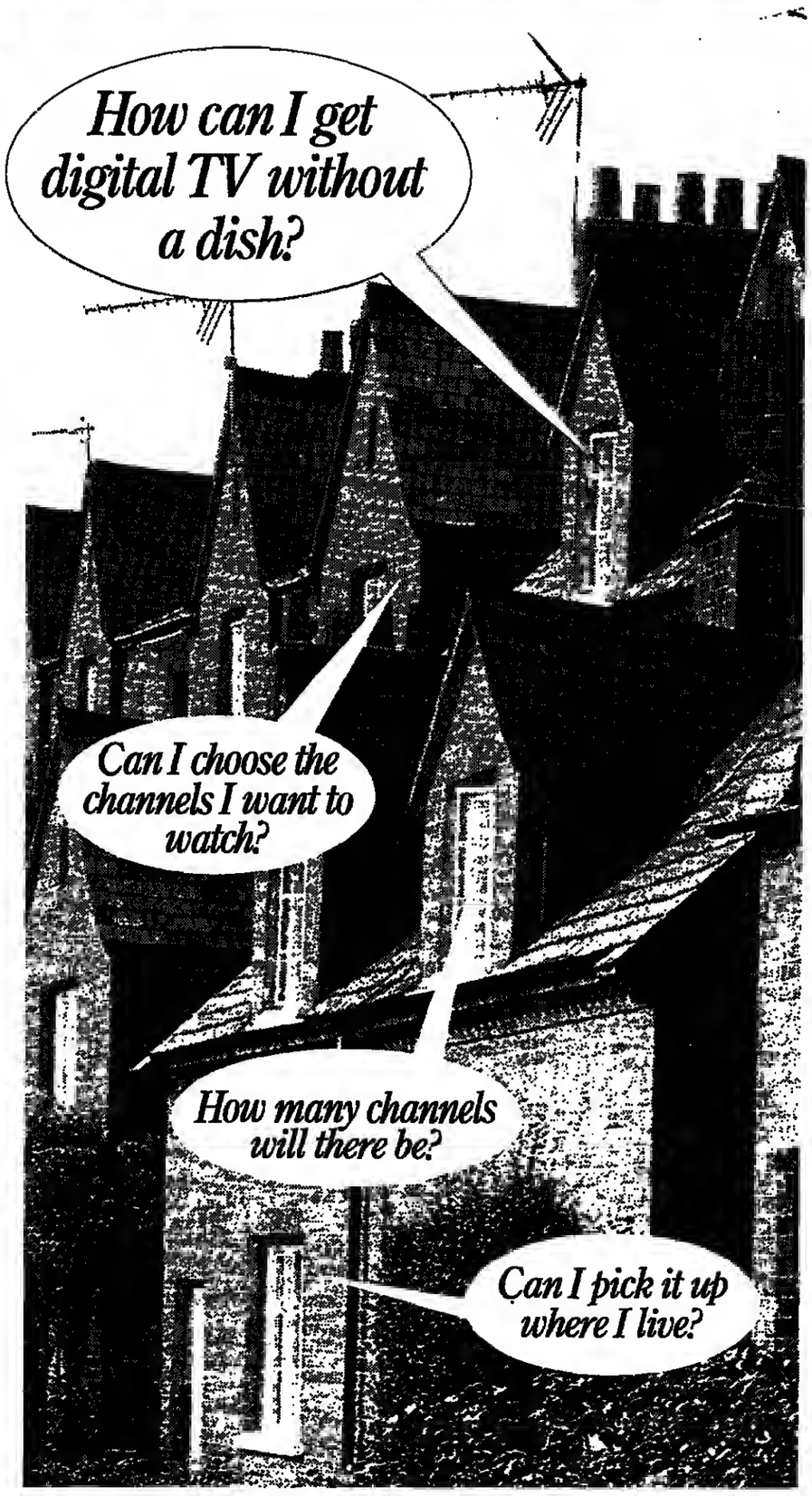
A COLLECTION of rare stamps has been found among the papers of Hammond Innes, the bestselling novelist who died in June. He was not known as a stamp collector.

The two albums containing rarities from St Helena were found by executors at his home in Kersey, Suffolk. They are expected to fetch about £11,000 at Sotheby's on December 18.

Tony Banwell, a stamp specialist at Sotheby's, described the collection as "a specialist's dream". It includes a block of six from St Helena's first postal issue in 1856. Mr Banwell said it was in good condition, and surmised that only three such blocks were known. A second album contains multiple issues and large sheets from 1870.

Innes was a yachtsman, and £5.4 million of his estate of £6.8 million will go to the Association of Sea Training Organisations, which represents 14 British sail training organisations.

Dixons



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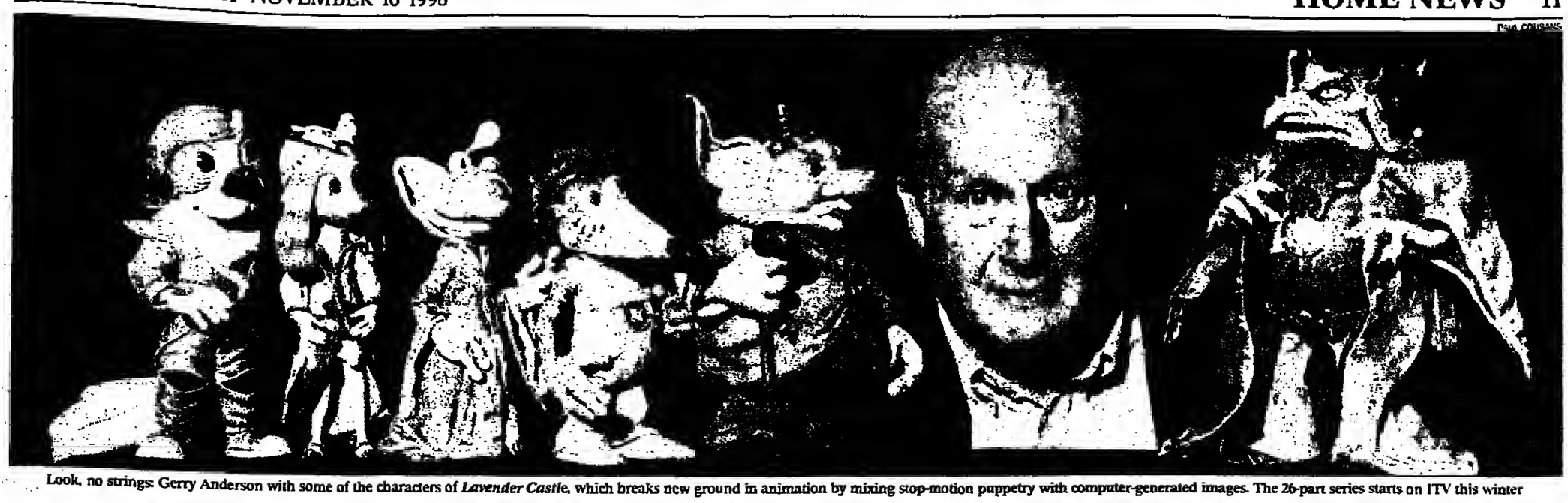

PAUL COUSANS

Look, no strings: Gerry Anderson with some of the characters of *Lavender Castle*, which breaks new ground in animation by mixing stop-motion puppetry with computer-generated images. The 26-part series starts on ITV this winter

Thunderbirds heirs head for space again

Gerry Anderson has used computers to create a puppet series for a new generation, writes **Russell Jenkins**

GERRY ANDERSON, who produced *Thunderbirds* and *Fireball XL5*, is preparing to recruit a new generation of young admirers who have never heard of Troy Tempest, Captain Scarlet, Parker or Lady Penelope.

The legendary producer, now 69, is the driving force behind *Lavender Castle*, which aims to explore uncharted ground in the use of puppetry on television. The 26-part series, which is due to run on ITV's winter schedules through to the summer, is regarded by the animation industry as the first such programme to marry successfully stop-motion puppetry with computer-generated images.

Four decades after he brought a new dimension to children's television with *The Adventures of Twizzle* and *Torchy the Battery Boy* and went on to create *Supercar*, *Stingray*, *Captain Scarlet* and *Space 1999*, there is not a puppet string in sight. *Lavender Castle* follows a space adventure by a band of intergalactic misfits led by Captain Thrice and their clashes with Dr Agon, the most mean and disgusting being in the galaxy.

In their thatched cottage spacecraft, the crew search for Lavender Castle, a floating city in the sky and the beating heart of the universe that gives the stars their light. Dr Agon wants to steal that light, plunging the universe into darkness. If the Tolkienesque characters appear familiar, it is hardly surprising. They are the inspiration of Rodney Matthews, the designer responsible for many of those hippy album covers in the 1970s.

Indeed, Anderson and Matthews conceived the idea years ago and had to wait for the technology to catch up. "It is the sort of puppet show I have been waiting to make for 30 years," said Mr Anderson, standing in a studio annexe at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, near Manchester, surrounded by his characters and papier maché parts of intergalactic spacecraft.

"Everyone knows *Postman Pat*, which is a lovely little show, but it is very confined, very simple, and that is because, with stop-motion pictures, the puppeteers always have to be able to reach the puppets to animate them. Consequently, the settings are very small.

"On this show we use the technique of stop motion, but then we can gradually enlarge the set afterwards with computer work. We can also build models on the computer, for example gigantic spaceships. When we marry the computer-generated images with the stop-motion puppetry we can achieve a very much bigger canvas."

He insists that he does not live with the ghosts of series past at his home in Henley-on-Thames. You will not find Mike Mercury or Troy Tempest occupying the spare bedroom. The drive to complete the new series comes from his love of technological change and his need for the wealth to fulfil its artistic expression.

"Had I had a really good business manager at an early stage I would have been a mini-Spielberg. Money is important because, when you are really wealthy, like some Hollywood producers, you can choose your own direction and everybody climbs aboard the bandwagon.

"In terms of complete freedom, it would be wonderful to be filthy rich. I can put my hand on my heart and say this is the one show I have made I really believe will take off. It is a truly family show. It has wonderful characters, brilliant animation and great special effects."

Anderson says that a new generation of fans is an attractive prospect. "With all the repeats around the world I sometimes wonder how many children have seen one of my shows. When I first went to the conventions, children of eight would ask for my autograph. As the years rolled by they became university graduates."

He says of Marina, the doe-eyed heroine of *Stingray*, that she is the "perfect woman, huge eyes but dumb", and asks: "Can you imagine doing that today?" Lyca, the female on board *Lavender Castle's* Paradox, is a New Age healer who searches the universe for rare plants. Craig Hemmings, the series' executive producer, said: "The aim is to create a modern classic, something that the next generation of children can see that would be as fresh as ever."

Single mother is heroine to millions

By Peter Foster

Judith Gibbins: sexy cut-glass vowels

BY DAY she teaches ballet in a Derbyshire mining town, drives a Ford Sierra and takes her 11-year-old son to school. But in another dimension Judith Gibbins, 36, is every teenage boy's fantasy woman, armed to the teeth and with vital statistics that would make a Page 3 girl blanch.

She is the voice behind Lara Croft, the star of the *Tomb Raider* computer games, a female Indiana Jones with an enormous arsenal and an equally improbable bust. Her identity has been revealed for the launch of the the third *Tomb Raider* adventure, which sees Croft fight her way through monster-infested chasms and tunnels in a bid to save the world. The games have already sold six million copies worldwide and made instant millionaires of the Derby-based computer programmers who invented her.

Mrs Gibbins was chosen for the part two years ago from a group of local actresses. The game's creators say that her authoritative, but sexy, cut-glass vowels were what won her the part, but the single mother has little in common with her alter ego.

Lara — whose adventures are funded by her father, Lord Hensingley-Croft — attended Wimbledon High School, Gordonstoun and a Swiss finishing school. Mrs Gibbins, by contrast, is the daughter of an Army corporal and was educated at the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School in London. Her rattling Sierra also contrasts with Ms Croft's mode of transport — a snowmobile. At 5ft 8in, Mrs Gibbins is an inch shorter than her computerised counterpart, whose vital statistics are 34D-24-35. Mrs Gibbins (34-26-38) is a green-eyed blonde, while Lara is a brown-eyed brunette.

Tomb Raider's increasing popularity has seen Mrs Gibbins, of Ilkeston, travel across the globe: "This year alone I've been to Atlanta, Montpellier and Munich for promotional events, and it's brilliant fun," she said. "The following in the US is incredible — people believe she exists.

"In Atlanta I did a voice-calibrated question-and-answer session, with me sitting behind a screen showing a digital image of Lara. Her lips moved whenever I spoke. Beforehand we tossed around what we thought people would ask — like what were my favourite artefacts and so on. In fact, most of the questions were 'Will you marry me?', 'Can I have a date with you?', and 'What size are your breasts?' "

But Mrs Gibbins, whose son, David, is still mastering Lara's on-screen moves, said that she found it difficult to prove her link with Ms Croft: "Lara has such a sexy image and the game such a high profile that people don't believe me when I say I'm her, so I have to say something to convince them. 'Go back to the beginning and try again' has become my party piece."

Lara Croft: the Indiana Jane of cyberspace

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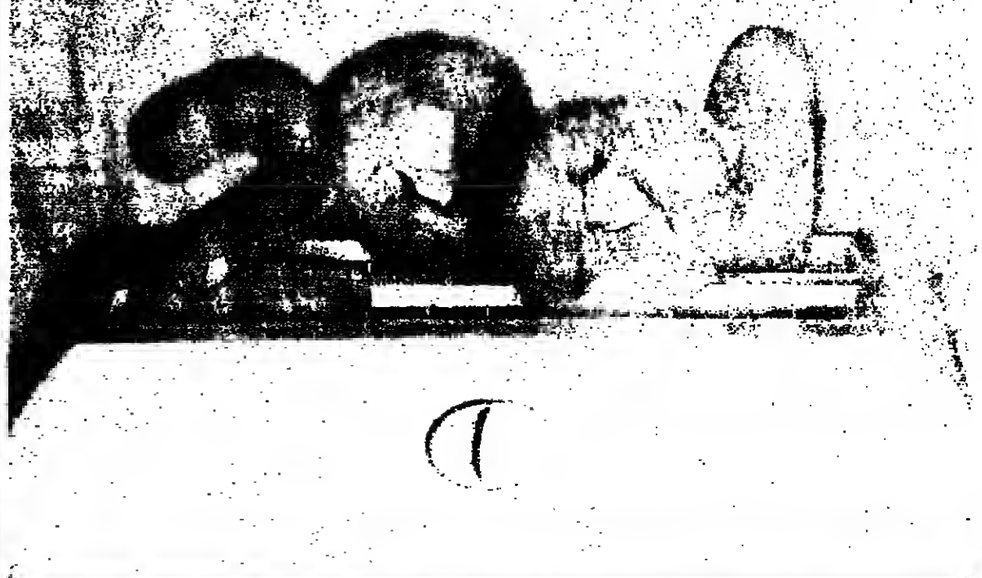

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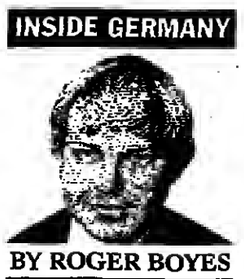


BY ROGER BOYES

At least since the days of Trollope, dances have served as a metaphor for the whirlygig of the political class: partners are changed, there is courtship, gossip, matchmaking and secret assignations. On Friday Bonn held its final press ball — the next will be in the new-old capital of Berlin — and the Government turned out in force along with 3,600 other guests, 1,500 oysters, 2,500 bottles of champagne and 50 kilos of doomed lobster.

"She's absolutely brilliant," said one dazzled reveller of Christa Müller, the powerful neo-Keynesian wife of Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister. "But who is that funny little man next to her?" Frau Müller dressed, to reflect her world view, in black and white. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, was accompanied by his wife, Doris — in striking salmon-pink silk. She was the belle of the ball, having apparently forgiven morally rigorous organisers for confining him to an isolated table when he was merely an adulterous Opposition politician. Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, hisjeans and T-shirt days behind him, came with a chain-smoking trainee journalist tipped to become his fourth wife.

If you take off your spectacles at a ball, the faces merge and, those shimmering personalities, so distinct on television, become as one: the politicians in their faintly sinister dinner-jacket uniform seem part of one heaving mass. It was ever thus, at French dances — Talleyrand was not the only man to serve many masters — and at the frenzied ball season during the Congress of Vienna. Close your eyes and Gerhard Schröder becomes Helmut Kohl.

Herr Schröder's enemies are saying that he spent his election campaign promoting himself as a younger, more efficient version of Herr Kohl and is oow stranded without a defined political position. Where is Schröder? asked *Spiegel* magazine.

The vacuum has been filled by Herr Lafontaine, the only man with ideological contours. The election slogan that counted most for the newly rediscovered centrist voters was: "We won't do everything differently but we will do a lot better." This rather mealy-mouthed promise was attached to posters of Herr Schröder plastered throughout the country. The fact is that Herr Kohl was the Sun King, the fixed reference point for all political players.

Wolfgang Schäuble, for example, was marketed as Helmut Kohl's crown prince. Now he is leader of the Christian Democratic Party, but his parliamentary performance last week seemed to lack weight. With the backing of Herr Kohl, Herr Schäuble's sharp tongue and quick brain made him a heavy hitter: last week he was merely waspish.

Herr Schröder also needed Herr Kohl, being more modern than Herr Kohl, more relaxed, more pragmatic, closer to the people on Europe and the Euro, more in touch and less pompous. The playful reference to Gerhard Blair was always off the mark. Rather, the politician on offer was Gerhard Kohl. The two-hour government declaration read out by Herr Schröder last week with all the commitment of a student presenting a hastily cobbled end-of-term paper, revealed almost nothing about the new Chancellor. There were pragmatic points — the exit from nuclear energy — which mark a new departure but they did not belong to Herr Schröder in any personal way.

It was on Europe that he could have broken out, showing that he is neither a pinker version of Herr Kohl nor a slavish spokesman of the centre-left European consensus. Early on in the election campaign, after all, he declared it would be better to delay European monetary union than start on the basis of a weak or politically manipulated Euro.

In six weeks time Germany takes over the European presidency for a term that includes the euro's introduction. Herr Kohl would have presented this as the dawn of an era. Herr Schröder made it sound like a rather tiresome, minor operation necessary for the continental economy's health.

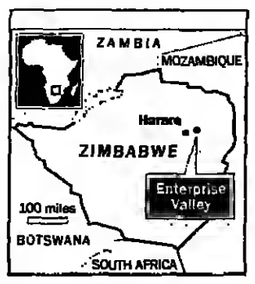
Helmut Schmidt, the last Social Democratic Chancellor, used to say that politicians with visions should see an optician. Even so, he put together — in an almost visiooary way — the early European monetary system. Herr Schröder has no vision and seems to be saying that Germany demands managerial leadership.

The net effect is that Herr Schröder sounds like Helmut Kohl on many aspects of Europe — the need for more political integration, for harmonised taxes, for budgetary reform. There are differences, however. Plainly the Social Democrats want a more social Europe and an effective jobs pact. They, like the French, want a political counterweight to the European Central Bank.

But the differences are not being defined by the Chancellorbut by a cootinuing conversation between Herr Lafontaine and his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss Kahn. These two are setting the tone of Franco-German relations and mapping out the future. Herr Schröder would do well to demonstrate quickly that he is not adrift on Europe. Otherwise he will end up as a wallflower, rather than as the star of the ball.

Mugabe turns blind eye to squatter terror

FROM JAN RAATH
IN ENTERPRISE VALLEY, ZIMBABWE



ANARCHY is spreading across the highly developed farmland east of Harare as guerrilla war veterans lead hundreds of squatters on to white-owned land that they claim is theirs historically.

Armed veterans have barricaded farmers inside their farmyards and threatened to kill them. Farming operations on about 20 properties have been hampered by a co-ordinated campaign of violence, harassment and intimidation that authorities have done almost nothing to contain.

Two whites were murdered and an elderly couple knifed last week. Although police deny there is any connection between the attacks and the squatters, the incidents have created a climate of fear that recalls the country's guerrilla war before independence.

The killings were "part of a lawless situation prevailing in the province", said Chris Molam, chief executive of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association. "There are squatters all over the place and it seems police are not doing their job."

Owen Connor, 64, was woken at dawn on Saturday with a message from a squatter encampment near his homestead that he was to leave the property by noon. "They said if f didn't, my life would be in danger," he said.

He ignored their orders, but moved his parents-in-law and his pregnant daughter to Harare. Police assured him that officers would be sent to protect him. They were not. That night about 60 squatters lit a bonfire 20 yards from the homestead, beat drums, sang and catcalled for hours. Calls to the police station a mile away were fruitless.

Since the squatters arrived a week ago, labourers have been beaten up and ordered not to go to work and farm equipment and produce stolen. Eight neighbouring farms have been occupied and the owners threatened with guns.

"I am going to hang in here and hope that law and order will prevail," Mr Connor said.

Kurds outside a military hospital in Rome where Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Kurdish Workers' Party, is being held. He fell ill after his arrest

Kurds urge asylum for leader

Rome: Nearly 2,000 Kurdish émigrés, waving the red banner of "independent Kurdistan" and shouting anti-Turkish, slogans converged oo Rome from all over Europe at the weekend to demand that Italy grant political asylum to Abdullah Ocalan, the fugitive Kurdish leader arrested at Rome airport on Thursday (Richard Owen writes). But two senior Turkish ministers who flew to Rome yesterday for a meeting of the Western European Unioo orged Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, to agree instead to Ankara's request for Mr Ocalan's extradition. Greens and Communists in Signor D'Alema's coalition backed Mr Ocalan's application for asylum, arguing that the leader of the PKK (the Kurdish Workers' Party) faced certain execution if sent back to Turkey. Protests were also held in Bonn. Prisoners in a Turkish jail took an Italian inmate hostage in an effort to force Italy to extradite Mr Ocalan.

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Tiananmen's legacy hangs over Jakarta

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

BATTLE lines hardened yesterday between the Indonesian Government and reformers as the dead were buried after violent clashes between students and riot police.

As the threat of further unrest hung over Jakarta, a crackdown like the one in Beijing against pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square seemed increasingly likely if the Government persisted with its hard line. "Even the students know they need blood," said one observer. "When blood flows the ball starts rolling. That's the reality, the inhuman aspect of any political movement."

Far from regretting the deaths of 11 civilians and students — another died from his wounds yesterday — President Habibie ordered a military crackdown against "subversives" by General Wiranto, his army commander, whose resignation the demonstrators are demanding.

A delegation from the Commission on Human Rights went to the President's home to demand an explanation for Friday's killings. At least four critics of the Government were arrested and questioned — one for 13 hours — but it was hard to see what subversion could achieve in a country that is already on its knees.

A hundred million Indonesians live below the poverty line, existing on 2,000 calories a day. The Government's refusal to accommodate the demands of the extra-parliamentary leaders, who represent millions of followers, and the student leadership's determination to march on parliament, leaves the outlook bleak.

Clearing up at a looted takeaway restaurant

The parliament has become a symbol of the struggle. It resembles a garrison. The grounds are full of heavily armed police and soldiers, while less than a mile away the students ponder their next move and clean up their medical facilities which, at Atma Jaya University alone, treated 120 people on Friday and Saturday for teargas and gunshot wounds.

President Habibie evidently did not understand the seriousness of what was happening over the weekend. At one point he tried to have his presidential motorcade pass down one of the main streets in the business district, already a full-fledged battleground.

The habits of dictatorship persist and Mohammad Suharto, the former President, was quoted as saying that the Government should at least try to talk to the students. But the student leadership itself is a new phenomenon in Indonesian politics: a small tight-knit group trusting no-one but themselves.

On the streets there is a commander, a deputy and two representatives from each of the activist universities. No wonder that government intelligence on their activities is said to be poor and inaccurate. The students are well-briefed, they have done their homework, but come determined to treat the situation as they find it.

It is the students who have written the reform agenda that populist leaders like the Muslim, Amien Rais, attempted to have introduced at the parliamentary session last week. But leaders like him fear the outcome of student radicalism which, if successful, could destroy what is left of Indonesia's institutions and reduce the country to a Lebanon-like state of armed political factions.

The Army and the assembly may be flawed, goes the argument, but the alternative could be anarchy. "The army has shown the ability to work underground to cause chaos. Thousands of vigilantes were brought in from Bandung and paid to cause trouble," said an Indonesian source. "Senior politicians are afraid the political structure will crumble. They want to rock the principals but not the infrastructure." Yesterday dawned with smoke still rising from gutted buildings in Chinatown — after the bloody mayhem of Friday in which soldiers killed indiscriminately and a mob rampaged through what remains of that vital part of the capital.

The Marines on duty there were outnumbered and unable to stop the destruction. In other instances, the army stood back and let the rioters vent their frustration on unarmed opponents.

They grabbed anything to hand, stacked the goods in the street and burnt them. One Chinese merchant, escorted away from his shop by Marines, was set upon by the mob and had to jump into a dyke to escape.

Many of the buildings restored after the devastation of last May are once again wrecked and Indonesians are left wondering if their Government has learnt anything in the interim.

☐ **Albright snub:** Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, met the wife of Anwar Ibrahim, the jailed Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, in a gesture of solidarity before breaking off her visit to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Kuala Lumpur to return to Washington yesterday to deal with the Iraq crisis. The meeting was seen as a parting snub to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, and came as police fired teargas and water cannon at protesters demanding an end to Dr Mahathir's 17-year rule.

A security guard at a Jakarta shopping mall keeps watch from behind a barricade yesterday as the capital braced itself for more violent clashes

Japan assures Burgundy corker of a year

Crisis in the East has not sapped interest in fine wine, writes **Ben Macintyre** in Paris

PRICES jumped again at yesterday's closely-watched Burgundy wine sales, powered by a demand from Japan that has not been quenched by the economic hangover in the Far East.

While the world economy is suffering from the shakes, the auction at the celebrated Hospices de Beaune in Burgundy showed that the French market in fine wine, like all the best vintages, is growing more valuable ever year. The annual sales in Beaune are regarded as a key indicator of the health of the wine industry and the quality of the vintage.

The wines sold at the auction have seen spectacular rises in recent years, including a 47 per cent increase last year. The first lots sold yesterday were up again by 10 to 15 per cent, driven by Japanese demand, according to wine experts.

Wine exports to Japan rose 100 per cent in the first half of this year, partly because of recently published scientific reports showing that red wine is good for the health. "We are astonished by the persistent strength of the Japanese demand," Antoine Jacquet, director of the Hospices de Beaune, said.

Wine critics and buyers were able to taste the 1998 Burgundy vintage for the first time this weekend before the sale started, and the public will get its first sip of the new wine crop when Beaujolais Nouveau is distributed on Thursday.

Proceeds from the auction, held in the ancient town square at Beaune, will go to a charity for sick children. The wines on sale, including such famous names as Montrachet, Pommard and Corton, are grown on land donated over hundreds of years to the Hospices de Beaune charity hospital.

This year is expected to be an excellent one for wine in much of France, although there are fears that the quality of the Burgundy may have suffered from heavy rainfall during harvesting.

An auctioneer takes bids at the Beaune wine sale

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SHOWDOWN WITH IRAQ

Iraqis oblivious to near-catastrophe

Saddam's censored press gave his people no idea how close they were to an air attack, writes Sam Kiley in Baghdad

THE THREATS by President Clinton to use force against Saddam Hussein and support opposition groups were yesterday dismissed by the Iraqi President's followers. But boosted by state-sponsored ignorance, few knew how close they had come to airstrikes over the weekend when American bombers were turned back as they flew over Saudi Arabian airspace.

"We are prepared to resist any aggression. For our country, for our President, we are not afraid of the Americans," Najileh al-Azari insisted. "The Iraqi people are dancing and singing."

Did she know that on Saturday night B52 bombers with cruise missiles were half an hour from raining death and devastation on her country? For a brief patheoc moment, Ms al-Azari's face spoke volumes. Fear, incomprehension and panic swept through her. Her lips quivered, she gulped.

"It's frightening, the Americans still want to attack us? Why?" she asked.

Sealed off from international media by their Government, which bans the use of satellite dishes and employs an army of spies to watch for anyone listening to foreign radio stations, Iraqis rely on official statements and interminable Baath party proclamations as their only source of information. They were led to believe that Saddam had won a moral victory over the US. They were not told that he had capitulated at the eleventh hour, offering to allow UN arms inspectors back into his country.

In the al-Senaar Stadium for "Baghdad Day", while soldiers including bagpipers in British-style uniforms gave drilling displays, two elderly sheikhs, leaders of Bedouin tribes, agreed with Ms al-Azari.

"We are behind Saddam Hussein. Our tribe, our sons, we are all with him. The Americans just want to take our oil and are afraid of how powerful we could become," said Najir Hamid Abbas al-Tayi.

Throughout Iraq's capital of 4.5 million people, there was a sense of ennui for the endless crises forced on Iraqis, in their view, by an overweening and arrogant America, and despair that they could once again fall victim to attacks launched from thousands of miles away. But there was no sense of fear. "If they bomb, they bomb," said Khaled, who was selling smuggled cigarettes.

Newspaper front pages carried the text of Saddam's letter to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. *Al-Thawra*, the Baath party newspaper, said "the leadership's decision pulled the carpet out from under the American Administration, which continues to present misleading information about Iraq ... and hunts continuously for opportunides to start an aggression".

Babil, which is published by Saddam's son Uday, said the American threats of a military strike were "a cruel joke".

Ahlam Abda Rida, a retired headmistress, swelled with pride. "Saddam Hussein is more intelligent than the Americans. He has won again," she boasted.

Iraqi soldiers waiting to take part in a military parade in the al-Senaar Stadium to celebrate Baghdad Day

PETER MORGAN / REUTERS

Richard Butler, head of the weapons inspection team, with Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations, as the crisis was defused in New York

Region breathes a sigh of relief

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Arab world breathed a collective sigh of relief and welcomed Saddam's capitulation over weapons inspections.

But there was a feeling that a showdown had merely been postponed, given the Iraqi leader's record, the continuing military build-up and America's apparent determination to test Iraq with intrusive new searches of sensitive sites when the weapons inspectors return. "The Iraqi de-

ARAB REACTION

cision is good news for the Arab nation and all the Gulf states," said Rashed Abdallah al-Nuaimi, the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

A Qatari Foreign Ministry official said: "We hope this will help to resolve the crisis and eventually lead to the lifting of sanctions."

The Iraqi leader was left isolated in the Arab world last week when the six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council said Saddam must bear responsibility for any attack. The Palestinian Authority welcomed signs that military action had been averted.

Flawed review proposal emboldened Saddam

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

UNITED NATIONS

AN ILL-DEFINED United Nations proposal known as the "comprehensive review", once derided as an "idea scribbled on the back of an envelope", has emerged as the crux of Iraq's dispute with the Security Council.

The plan for a rethink of the UN's Iraq policy was floated originally by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, after President Saddam Hussein reneged in August on his agreement to allow access to UN weapons inspectors.

Iraq's friends on the Security Council — Russia, China and France — seized on Mr Annan's proposal as a means of curtailing the weapons inspections and lifting sanctions. With their backing, Mr Annan drafted a detailed version of his plan that rewrote the rules for the lifting of the oil embargo in Iraq's favour.

Instead of UN inspectors having to certify Iraq free of weapons of mass destruction, for instance, the Security Council would consider whether the country continued to pose a threat to its neighbours — allowing for the possibility that Iraq would retain some banned arms.

Faced with the prospect of rewarding Iraq for floutiog UN demands, the British and Americans balked at Mr Annan's proposal and got the Security Council to firm it up. Although still offering a comprehensive review, the council's version played down the possibility of easing sanctions.

More importantly, the US blocked a reference to the key UN provision — paragrapb 22 of Resolution 687 — that ties the lifting of the oil embargo to Iraq's compliance with UN weapons inspections. Unlike other council members, Washington insists that the oil embargo can be lifted only after Iraq has also satisfied other UN demands, such as accounting for missing Kuwaitis. Washington's hard-line position made it into the Security Council's proposal, dashing Iraq's hopes of an early end to sanctions and provoking it to break entirely with the UN weapons inspectors on October 31.

The row over the contents of the "comprehensive review" continues, and may be the trigger for further confrontations. In accepting the return of UN inspectors on Saturday, Iraq attached a nine-point annex repeating its demands about the "comprehensive review".

Russia, France and China all broadly favour Iraq's approach, as does Mr Annan. But it is still resisted staunchly by the British and, particularly, the Americans.

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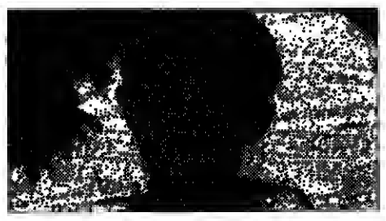

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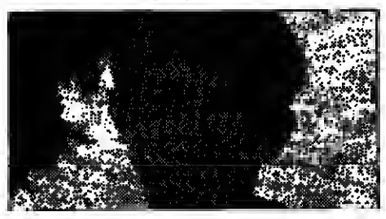

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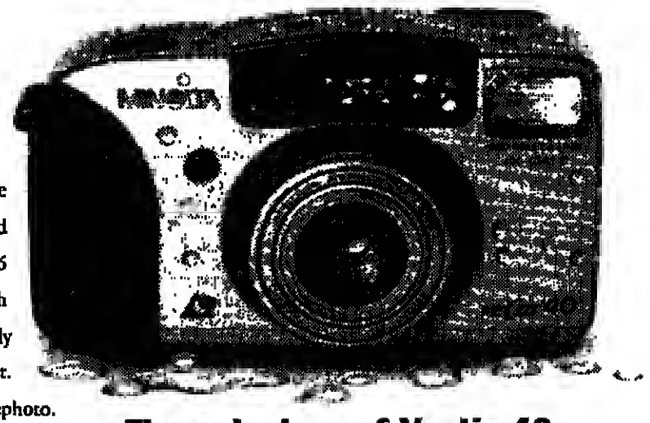

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SHOWDOWN WITH IRAQ

Attack aborted with minutes to spare

US bombers were already over Saudi Arabia when they received the coded signal to abandon their deadly mission, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

THE United States has never come so close to launching a bombing campaign. The commanding officers of the B52s on their way to Iraq were within half a hour of firing their 300-mile range air-launched cruise missiles on Baghdad when the coded "abort" message was signalled via satellite from US Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

The B52s had taken off from their home base at Barksdale, Louisiana, each armed with 20 cruise missiles, and are understood to have flown over Israel and Jordan, and were on their way over Saudia Arabia when they were ordered to turn around.

The US Air Force B52 bombers fly at a speed of between 500 mph and 550 mph which means that the deadly armada of missile-laden aircraft were about 600 miles from Baghdad.

Under a secure emergency communications system which has been in place ever since the B52s carried nuclear weapons during the Cold War, the President of the United States can reverse an executive order authorising a missile launch by ordering a coded signal to be sent to all the aircraft involved in an operation.

For the mission to be aborted, each commanding officer on board the B52s would have had to authenticate the abort signal by checking the code before sending back a reply, Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group, said yesterday.

US Air Force sources said that the original plan had been for 12 B52s to fly from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia to be ready for strikes against Iraqi targets.

However, there was a change of plan. The B52s chosen for the mission were still at Barksdale and "between six and ten" of the giant bombers took off from there for a 14-hour flight with the intention of launching their missiles against Iraq from 9am (2pm GMT) on Saturday. Once this had been completed, the B52s were to fly to Diego Garcia and await further orders.

Under the first-phase strike plan, the B52 air-launched cruise missiles would have been followed by a wave of Tomahawk missiles fired from eight US Navy warships in the Gulf, including one nuclear-powered submarine.

The order in which the missiles were to be launched proved to be highly significant. B52s can be turned back, but Tomahawks, once fired, cannot change course.

In preparation for a huge airstrike, 12 US Air Force F15 fighters from Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and a similar number of F16s from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, also took off for the Gulf. Two RC135 reconnaissance and electronic warfare aircraft left Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska.

They were followed by F117 Steahh fighters and support aircraft from bases around the country.

The decision had been taken to use US bases and not to seek permission to launch American aircraft from their locations in Saudi Arabia to avoid placing the Saudi Government in an embarrassing position.

At around 8am (1pm GMT) on Saturday, President Clinton was informed by Sandy Berger, his National Security Adviser, that Baghdad had sent a "positive" letter to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Mr Clinton ordered the attack to be put on hold at about 8.30am after it appeared that Saddam had backed down and had agreed to full UN weapons inspections.

The build-up to the decision to launch a military strike began on Tuesday when Mr Clinton had a long telephone conversation with Tony Blair. According to the Prime Minister's spokesman, they agreed that military action should be launched five days later, unless Saddam backed down. That meant D-Day was to be Saturday morning.

On Wednesday, Mr Blair had detailed discussions on the telephone about the targeting policy, and following a meeting with George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, John Morris QC, the Attorney-General, was asked to examine the targets to ensure they were not in breach of international law.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that on Thursday Mr Blair studied the targeting plan which had been sent from Washington and gave authorisation to General Guthrie for British forces to be involved in the military action.

The order was subsequently signalled to the RAF detachment in Kuwait for the 12 Tornado GR1s to participate in the airstrikes. The Tornados were armed with Paveway III guided missiles for bombing raids on key targets, expected to include Iraqi command and control bunkers.

Unlike the B52s which had to come all the way from their home base, the Tornados never took off for their mission, although they were on the highest state of alert to join the operation in the second phase.

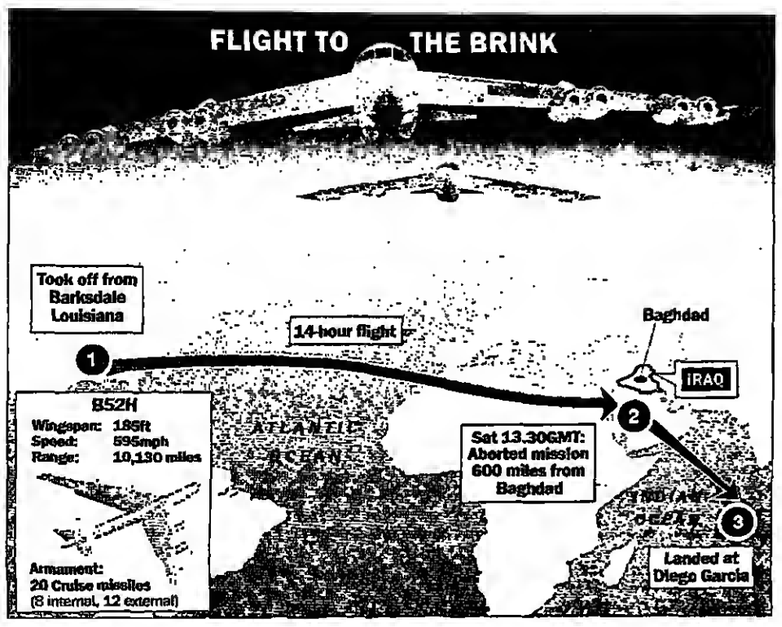
The Downing Street spokesman insisted that Saddam had not been tipped off by Washington or London that the B52s were on their way — so as to put maximum pressure on him to back down at the last minute.

However, the Iraqi leader had either got the message from somewhere, or he had managed successfully to read the signs, and made hasty steps to capitulate and stop what would have been the first-ever firing of air-launched cruise missiles in anger leading to comprehensive damage to his military infrastructure.

Washington: UN weapons inspectors could be back in Iraq within 24 hours, Richard Butler, the chief inspector, said yesterday. "We can be running again within about 24 hours," he told CNN television following Iraq's decision to offer full compliance with inspectors from Unscom. *(AFP)*

> 'Saddam had got the message or had managed to read the signs'

An F117 Stealth fighter rolls out of a hangar at Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico yesterday to begin the journey to the Gulf. It was one of many attack aircraft which took off from bases across the US



Scepticism greets talk of new deal

ISRAEL

By Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

THE right-wing Israeli Government yesterday welcomed signs that a military strike against Iraq had been temporarily averted and that UN weapons inspectors would soon resume work.

But Israeli newspapers argued that there would be no lasting solution to the recurring Gulf crises until Saddam Hussein had been removed.

"Obviously everyone wants a resolution without bloodshed," said David Bar-Illan, spokesman for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israel Prime Minister.

He hoped that the UN inspectors would be able to prevent the Iraqi dictator from acquiring ballistic missiles with non-conventional warheads.

"What is important now is for the inspection to proceed, so that the region will be safe from non-conventional weapons and the means of their delivery," Mr Bar-Illan added.

Senior Israeli defence officials also stressed the importance of returning the inspectors to work as quickly as possible as it is believed here that no other means can prove so effective in restraining the development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for which Israel would be the primary target.

"The state of Israel supports the the US efforts to ensure significant inspection by Unscom and Israel supports any steps the US takes in this matter," said Avi Benayahu, spokesman for Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

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Lucky to escape injustice of death row

MICHAEL S. GREEN / AP

Former death row inmates, all of whom had convictions overturned before it was too late, on stage at the Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty conference in Chicago

FROM IAN BRODIE IN CHICAGO

TWENTY-SEVEN men and two women, once destined to take their final steps on death row, have denounced the states that tried to kill them.

They were among 75 Americans — all innocent of the crimes for which they were condemned — who have been freed since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. Many came within hours of execution before the verdict was reversed.

Their parade was a flesh-and-blood indictment of the erratic and frequently unjust application of the death penalty in America. It was the climax of an unprecedented conference here that exposed as broken the legal machinery of death. The former victims, mostly middle-aged, described their ordeals. Each told how long they had spent on death row — from ten months to 21 years. Each placed a sunflower in a vase to symbolise a life regained. Each intoned: "If the state had gotten its way, I would be dead today."

Sonia Jacobs, sentenced for the murder of two police officers, sobbed: "My daughter's father was not as lucky as I was. By the time our innocence was established, Florida had executed him." Greeted by thunderous applause, the former death row inmates hugged and raised their arms in triumph. One said: "We've become a family, speaking out to stop executions in America."

The conference drew 1,200 lawyers, investigators and activists to Northwestern University. They agreed to launch an "Innocence Network" among law schools to find ways to minimise the risk of wrongful convictions. They will face scepticism from prosecutors and judges. Polls show that 70 per cent of Americans support the death penalty. The conservative Washington Legal Foundation mocked the conference as a publicity stunt. Nor were the freed victims all saints: they included men with prior criminal records.

The gathering did, however, identify recurring reasons for wrongful convictions. Corrupt police extract false confessions and fabricate evidence. Prosecutors rely heavily on "jailhouse snitches" — inmates who win leniency by falsely claiming that the defendant had owned up. Inept legal-aid lawyers are responsible for many mistaken verdicts. Appeal Courts stubbornly refuse to reopen cases or hear new evidence.

> 'The worst thing is knowing the real killers are still on the loose'

Randall Padgett, acquitted of murder after facing the electric chair for five years, said: "With 75 people on death row exonerated, I believe there are a lot more who never got that chance."

Gary Gauger's luck turned when FBI agents overheard a motorcycle gang discussing the murders of his parents, for which he had been condemned. The worst thing about being wrongfully convicted, he said, is knowing that the real killers are still on the loose. Indeed, a seven-year-old girl was murdered while Roberto Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez spent ten years on death row for the rape and murder of a ten-year-old. They were cleared by DNA tests and a police officer's admission that he lied under oath.

Dennis Williams and Verneal Jimerson were on death row for 18 years for the murder of a Chicago couple. Journalism students established their innocence through DNA tests. Joseph Green Brown, who came within 13 hours of execution, said: "I can't tell you what it's like to have a gentleman put a tape measure around your chest, your waist and the inseam of your legs. He's measuring you for your burial suit."

America has 3,517 people awaiting execution, the most yet. The numbers point strongly to racial bias — 47 per cent are white, the rest are minorities. There have been 486 executions since 1976. For every seven of those, one other death-row prisoner has been set free.

Willie Enoch, convicted of murdering a woman 15 years ago, hopes the publicity will help him. Today, his lawyers will plead with Jim Edgar, the Illinois Governor, to intervene before his date with death — on Wednesday.

Jaturun Siripongs: to die in California tomorrow

President Chirac expresses his sorrow for Guatemala's plight to Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu

Disease threat to prolong hurricane misery

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YOUNG children are increasingly falling victim to infections in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, the Honduran Government said yesterday, amid growing fears of epidemics in Central America.

The large quantities of stagnant water left by the disastrous floods provided ideal breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitoes, said Marco Rosa, the Health Minister. He said that in the slums around Tegucigalpa alone, about 50,000 children were exposed to malaria and many more were threatened across the country. He said children were the most threatened by potential epidemics and were increasingly falling victim to infections.

The main threat in the capital is a large lake that has formed as a result of flood waters, which aid teams have not been able to drain. The minister said a fumigation campaign was planned.

Health authorities in Honduras and Nicaragua, the countries worst hit by the hurricane, and consequent floods and landslides, were on full alert amid growing fears that

stagnant water and a lack of adequate sanitation could trigger epidemics.

Nicaragua launched a large-scale vaccination campaign yesterday, targeting more than a million children and their mothers.

Nicaragua reported four deaths and more than 40 suspected cases of leptospirosis, a bacteriological infection usually contracted by walking on damp, infected soil, or through food. There were also 31,888 cases of acute respiratory infections, 422 cases of diarrhoea and 150 cases of cholera, while Honduras recorded 858 cases of malaria, 53,617 cases of respiratory illnesses, 12,393 cases of gastro-intestinal ailments and two cases of cholera. In Guatemala at least eight people had died of cholera since Thursday and 20 others were being treated for the disease, authorities said.

President Chirac of France yesterday visited a Caribbean town devastated by the hurricane, lending support to international reconstruction efforts in Central America after telling Guatemalans "I bow before your pain and your loss."

"He went to Punta Manabique to visit the town there and see what French relief groups are doing in the area," said Lieutenant Olivier Poinsot, logistics officer of the French navy vessel *Francis Garnier*, which is involved in aid work in east Guatemala.

Some 1,400 members of the French military are helping with relief efforts in Central America, including construction crews from the *Francis Garnier*, who are repairing a stretch of road in the area.

When he arrived in Guatemala City on Saturday night Chirac, the first French president to visit the country, said "I want to express my sympathy to the people of Guatemala."

In Nicaragua, Vice President Enrique Bolanos, the 70-year-old chief of the national disaster recovery plan, was admitted to hospital suffering from exhaustion.

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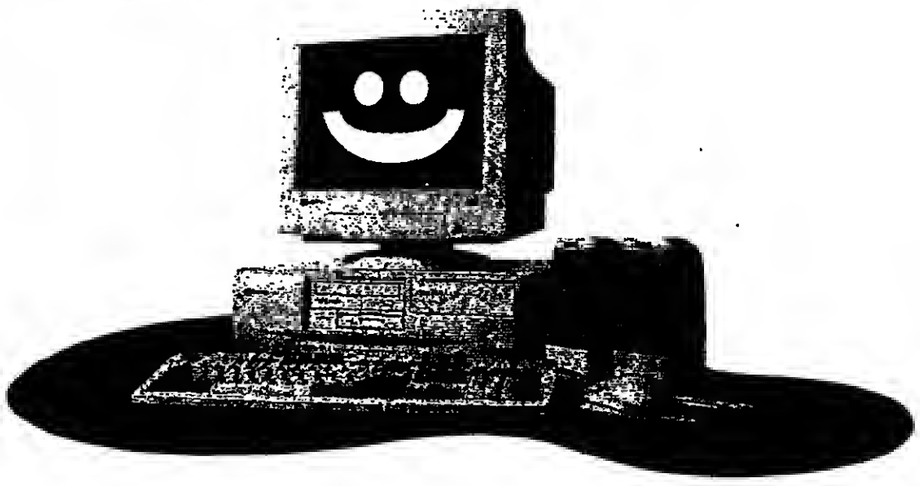

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Lina E: "People couldn't get the money to buy food. They would cry 'I need money to get sausage'. I'd be happy if they gave the rest of my money to the *babushkas*"

Take the roubles and run

A new generation of sassy and savvy young Russians is discovering how to beat the system. **Vanora Bennett** reports

The last thing Lina E. has time for is to sink into the gloomy self-pity reputed to affect sensitive Russian souls.

She is too busy celebrating. For the waif-like 28-year-old student, who will not disclose her surname to protect her family, has pulled a series of stunts so audacious that she can scarcely believe her luck. First she played the wild markets of neo-capitalist Moscow. Then, when Russia's economy imploded this summer, she managed to spirit her £13,000 profit out of the country.

How? That was the easy part. Lina lied. She told the bank manager that she had a brain tumour. He was so convinced by her tragic story that he sneaked money out to London to help to "treat" the illness. Lina, now studying at the London School of Economics, has no regrets. Instead she is thrilled that her fib helped to keep her money out of the clutches of the Russian elite.

"I realised that you have to be one step ahead of the system," she says. "Otherwise the system will invent something, basically to screw people up."

Lina's story shows the challenge that her generation of sassy, financially sophisticated twentysomethings represents to an older, more rigid top layer of officialdom. Until people like Lina came along, Russia's bosses could rely on a climate of nervous ignorance to stop questions being asked about even their most unreasonable or shady policies.

Lina's battle of wits with the Russian establishment began in August, when she was working at one of Moscow's new finance houses and living in a cheap shared apartment.

She came home from a trip to London to find that a bubble in Moscow's massively hyped market in government bonds, known as GKOs, was about to burst. Financial and economic catastrophe loomed. All Lina's savings were in GKOs.

It took her from Thursday morning to Friday night to persuade the staff at her bank branch to sell her bonds and put her profits into an ordinary rouble account. It proved to be just in time. When Lina went to the bank to pick up a receipt for the transaction, early on Monday, August 17, disaster had struck.

"People kept rushing in and staring at the exchange-rate screen. Then the screen blanked out altogether. I realised something suspicious was going on," she recalls.

> 'People kept staring at the exchange-rate screen'

The Government had just declared it was devaluing the rouble and freezing the GKO bond market — in effect, cheating all the customers who had trusted it enough to buy Russian. Had Lina's money still been in bonds, it would have vanished. Those who had put their roubles in the bank realised these savings, too, would vanish if hyperinflation began. They were desperate to get the money out out and buy dollars. But banks that had gambled away their customers' money on speculative buying of GKO bonds could not, or would not, honour their debts and pay up.

A very Russian panic began: no riots, no rage, just sullen resentment and queues of victims standing in the sharp winds, waiting to be told they had lost out again. Those who had been prudent and kept their savings in dollars under the bed looked on and shook their heads.

But this time there were a few people like Lina: sharp, and confident and too young to have been raised as victims. Some worked in the markets, many were paid through banks. They used their financial knowledge to fight back.

The rules changed several times a day. So did the counter-tactics people dreamt up to cling on to what was theirs. But as staples such as flour began to vanish from shops, Lina rushed back to the bank to secure her savings. Plan A was to transfer her roubles to a dollar account, but the staff kept her filling in forms for three hours, by which time the value of her roubles had halved.

Over the next three days Lina explored legal loopholes. One allowed her to sneak her roubles away to a more efficient bank. Here, using Tuesday's new rules about exchanging money, she turned the roubles into dollars at a good rate — and didn't lose half her savings. The next, and trickiest, step was to transfer her dollars out of the country.

The rules issued on Wednesday offered a new loophole: she could send money to England if she showed an official invoice for a big foreign currency expense. No problem, Lina thought, and rang the LSE to ask it, urgently, to bill her for her forthcoming year's tuition. "Sorry," she was told. "Our computers are down. We will issue it in two weeks."

Two weeks was too far off. She decided to stop being honest. On Thursday morning she told the bank the most preposterous lie she could think of: she had to have a brain tumour removed. She and a British friend in Moscow drafted a fake invoice asking her to pay almost all her money to the friend's British bank account.

"We had no hospital name. We just wrote: 'Your operation is arranged for September 26. You must pay a pre-operation fee of this much, this much for the operation and this much for post-operation treatment'." Lina faxed the "invoice" to herself, and took the fax to the bank. A kindly woman took pity on her. She cleared a space in the crowds of customers waiting for their money so the "sick" Lina could sit down and write a personal letter to the bank chairman, pleading for special treatment.

Lina laid on the pathos: "I've waited six months for this operation, because London queues are so long. What I have in your bank is not a huge amount, but it's the amount I need to treat my illness."

By the time she got home that evening, there was a sympathetic message from the bank on her answering machine. By Friday morning, when she returned to the bank, the chairman had read her letter. He was so moved by Lina's plight that he ordered his staff to transfer all her money, at once, to London. Lina's lips twitch again. "I don't know if he cried," she finishes.

Some people in Britain, and anyone who genuinely had to get money out of Russia for a life-threatening brain operation, might think this brazen. But in Russia, coping with the bizarre laws and on-the-make bosses quickly turns even the most moralistic expatriate into a subverter of authority as crafty as any Muscovite.

Lina's generation is nothing like the mobsters who made the first big money in Russia in the early 1990s and spent it on gold, guns and fast cars. Her Moscow friends are a sophisticated, articulate mix of Russian and Western bankers, economists, analysts and entrepreneurs. The techno-finance whiz-kids who have flourished since 1996 earn well, take risks and play hard — but they also plan time out for business school, and are as likely to spend an evening at an experimental opera performance as in a nightclub.

Like other Russians, these kids believe the rich elite that runs their state is out to rob the people. Unlike the rest, though, they have no Soviet-era fear of authority.

Lina doubled her modest Moscow salary of about £14,000 a year by playing the markets, but more out of intellectual curiosity than a hunger for easy wealth. "I wanted to find out how the markets worked. I wanted our country to be normal, and I couldn't understand why people were keeping their money under the mattress when they could be using it," she says.

Lina has only sympathy and concern for ordinary people, suffering and helpless in the latest crisis. She is anxious about her parents, scratching a living in southern Russia with no savings, just hoping their vegetable garden will see them through the winter.

And her heart goes out to the people she saw queueing in Moscow banks. "These poor people couldn't get the money to buy food. They would cry 'I need money to get sausage'. One woman was weeping because she'd saved enough to buy a flat and it had all vanished. So if I don't get the rest of my money, I'd be happy if they gave it to the *babushkas*."

I bet £100 I'll offend again

Can a caring approach to young offenders work? **Bill Frost** talks to one who doubts it

Paul Wan was drunk and high on drugs as a young man lay groaning at his feet. He stood and watched as two mates continued to beat their victim — the moaning had stopped and the teenager on the pavement was almost certainly unconscious.

Paul had kicked the boy "a couple of times" after pursuing him from a burger bar where closing-time insults had been exchanged by rival bands of under-age drinkers. "But the others kept booting him in the head until the blood came."

Sentenced to 18 months' youth custody for his part in the attack, Paul expresses no real sympathy for his victim, who suffered a brain clot and was in a coma for weeks. He has no idea why the fight broke out: "I was 14 at the time, and easily led," he says.

While the debate on dealing with young offenders continues — only last week it was revealed that youngsters had wreaked havoc at the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, Kent — Portsmouth council hopes that its therapy project aimed at breaking the cycle of delinquency will prove effective. Officers reckon that 20 young people are responsible for 7,000 offences, from petty theft to sexual assault, in the city so far this year.

Paul shows a chilling indifference to the suffering he has caused and more than a hint of bravado when he discusses the incident and his own conviction for grievous bodily harm. However, now 17, he wants to change — or he says he does.

Since joining Portsmouth's Persistent Young Offender's Project he has been found a car-valeting job and is being asked to confront and defeat his own criminality. But at first he blames everyone but himself for his past behaviour.

"Being in custody was humiliating, made me really angry. The screws pick on you; there is no deterrent value in that. You go back to your old ways as soon as you come out, just to show them they haven't won."

At the first assessment, the project leader, Rhona Lucas, a veteran social worker, asks the teenager to catalogue his life of crime. The depressingly long list includes drug use, under-age drinking, common assault, theft from motor vehicles, shoplifting and more.

"He is a lovely lad really," says Mrs Lucas while Paul is out of the room. "It's hard to believe there is another side. We are never going to stop some people committing crimes but we will try to make them examine what is behind their pattern of offending. Many are fed up with being in custody.

"After that we consult families, police, social services and education officials before devising a programme of activity for each young person referred to the project, which is voluntary. And a 'mentor' is appointed to help the young person."

As Mrs Lucas leaves the basement flat in the suburb of Fratton where Paul lives with his grandmother Margaret, teenagers gather on a corner. But tonight, at least, they wait for him in vain. Paul is staying at home; perhaps his formidable grandmother has told him he must. "I've had enough of prison visiting, thank you very much," she says.

Margaret Wan, who has brought up Paul since his mother rejected him at birth, knows there has been a sad inevitability about her grandson's descent into petty crime. While still a child, Paul twice sought out his mother. Both meetings proved painful and he returned to Margaret emotionally damaged and angry.

Paul and Margaret Wan

"I am concerned that he will get back into the wrong company. The project is well intentioned, but teenagers like Paul need discipline," she says.

Mrs Lucas understands that many of those who look after young offenders and most of the victims of their crimes favour punishment over counselling. But she believes that love and understanding are better options than incarceration and institutionalised brutality.

"We are not talking about the educationally sub-normal. Most of those involved in the project are bright but have little or no self-esteem. We must harness their intelligence. You can turn young offenders into decent young people."

Paul is less sure: "I bet £100 I'll be in trouble before the year is out. In a funny way, I reckon tougher punishments for young people would work better than counselling. People like us just see that as a sign of weakness, an easy option."

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Wearing what comes naturally

New fabrics have made eco-clothes sophisticated and covetable

Every so often the fashion world has its little flirtations with hemp, organically grown cotton and mink (on the basis that it's "natural"). And sooner or later an earnest-eyed designer wafts up from a macrobiotic farm in Wales with interesting-looking dresses made from yak hair, and fingers stained aubergine from clever ways with vegetable dyes.

And then, partly because these clothes are never what anyone wants to wear, everyone goes back to PVC, industrial-strength bleach and devoting themselves to looking chic. The truth is that any industry predicated on constant change is as suitable a companion for eco-awareness as Emma Noble would be for, well, James Major.

But that does not stop the fashion world from wishing that it could do better, especially now that eco-warriors are mainstream heroes with a definable, if not conventionally groomed, glamour. This winter there is a very wistful, rural air to some of the boho clothes around.

Wools are boiled (a process that makes them much sleeker and nicer than you might imagine); coats are unlined for that just-run-up-at-home look; jumpers have that loose-weave, knitted-by-candlelight feel to them. Some even have environmental credentials that go beyond the superficial. Conscious Earthwear, for instance, is a company that began as a hobby for Sarah Ratty, a graduate of Bristol Polytechnic, in 1991. Her original ambition was to use only fabrics that had been recycled, but when that proved impractical, she adopted a more realistic, half-recycled policy.

No manufacturing system can be entirely unadulterating but Ratty relies heavily on polar fleece — recycled from plastic — microfibre, and towelling, which has a green stamp of approval. She also manufactures in Britain to ensure good working conditions, and water used in the dyeing process is re-used instead of being released. Refreshingly, the clothes don't follow the ersatz rustic route, either. The best that can be said of Conscious Earthwear's clothes is that they are covetable — without that, no amount of organic vegetable dye is going to make eco-style more than another fleeting marketing buzzword.

From left: body warmer, £100, by Conscious Earthwear, from Urban Outfitters (0171-252 4802), turtleneck, £69.99, and skirt, £59.99, by Morgan (0171-383 2888); dress, £200, and duffel coat, £350, by Saltwater, from Browns (0181-874 0211), boots, £365, by Gina (0171-235 2932); jumper, £39.99, by Sisley, top, £40, by Base Elements (0171-287 6767), trousers, £45, by Benetton, mules, £275, by Gina Couture (0171-235 2932); sweater, £169, skirt, £149, by Nicole Farhi (0171-499 8368). Photographer: LUCY RITTER; Stylist: Nicola Goldie; Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management using Yum Yum products (01702 435804); Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management using Ruby & Millie; Model: Indriaty at Select

Why can't the British get real?

TODD OLDHAM, who has just stopped his catwalk shows to concentrate on his jeans line because "it's real — it means something to people", is the latest in a long line of designers waking up to the joys of "real" clothes.

The problem is that doing "real" clothes well is one of the hardest tricks of all — as Marks & Spencer's recent less-than-scintillating showing proves. The perfect jumper in the right shade, with the season's boat or turtle neck; a T-shirt that's not too fitted; a skirt that looks different enough from all your other skirts to be interesting but not too gimmicky — these are the heroes of fashion and something that Britain, for all its brilliant high street merchandise, can't seem to get right at a mid-price level. APC, a French label, can do it, but has one shop in London. American companies can do it with their eyes closed, but the ones I'm thinking of don't have any stores here — yet. The pity is that two years ago, M&S was making headway, although the best pieces — one particular grey cashmere "Prada-inspired" coat sold out in days — only ever went into a few flagship stores. Then M&S seemed to get cold feet. Perhaps there's still a deep-rooted puritanism running through Britain's biggest clothing companies — a belief that the British can't take fashion on board unless it's very cheap or ridiculously expensive. The evidence seems to suggest the contrary: more and more women consider well-designed, affordable clothes a necessity, not a frivolity. Until this message gets through to British companies, the best course of action is to order online from J. Crew (www.jcrew.com), which also posts weekly clearance sales each Friday with items at 10 to 30 per cent off, or call Banana Republic (001-888 906 2800 any time) for a copy of its catalogue. Failing that, catch a plane to New York, where both these sterling companies have several large branches.

■ GIVEN a recent survey showing that people spend 70 per cent of their stay in hotel rooms washing and preening, my own litmus test for a hotel — are the towels big and fluffy, are the creams and shampoos by Anouk Goutal or dingy little packets half-filled with a watery lotion that covers only half your leg/head? — might be a legitimate barometer after all. But what gets omitted from a bathroom speaks volumes, too. And so to a certain chic new hotel in downtown New York, much heralded by the glossy press, not least because the fashion and design crowds hang out there and because, apparently, it's Leonardo DiCaprio's "home from home".

Bathroom products — from FACE — were unimpeachably fashionable, but where were the showercaps? Obviously they're not what Leo would be photographed in for *Vanity Fair*, but even he must resort to one sometimes. Evidently not. "We might be able to track one down somewhere," sniffed the girl on the front desk semi-helpfully and wholly stunned — an unimaginative reaction as they're the kind of thing on which Jeremy Scott might base an entire collection. Eventually, one was located. By now it was clear that asking for a showercap in SoHo is akin to requesting a porn mag in a convent. Heaven knows what essentials might be outlawed next by the hotel style police. The time has come for our greatest design minds to concentrate on improving the showercap. Galliano and McQueen, your country's hairdos need you.

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Rebel with a new cause

Designer and former leftwinger Katharine Hamnett explains why she has joined the Conservative Party. Interview by Fashion Editor **Lisa Armstrong**

"You can adopt any image you want through clothes. They make you happy, confident, sexy . . . powerful," says the designer, above

She speaks in gently modulated Cheltenham Ladies' College tones that never fail to surprise, not least perhaps, because her views in print always seem so vehement. "I am *amazed* at the reaction to that article I wrote about the euro," Katharine Hamnett says mildly. "It was just a little piece."

Is she serious? Last week's "little" piece appeared, after all, in a national broadsheet. But that's the thing about Hamnett: *now* 51, she is so adept at generating publicity that she doesn't seem to be aware she is doing it. This is the woman who famously wore a T-shirt emblazoned with "58 per cent don't want Pershing" to shake hands with Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street in 1984. The picture went global — and so did Hamnett's company.

"I didn't think about marketing the T-shirts at the time," she says. "I just wanted a slogan that would show up well on 35mm film." But marketed it was — and so widely copied that pirate versions of it turned up everywhere from Southall to Saigon, many of them of the badly printed, Save-the-Waves-and-other-impenetrable-philosophical-slogans variety. In the process, the legend of Hamnett the fashion rebel, feminist, staunch leftwinger, Greenham Common supporter took flight, although she now accepts that "*superior weapons have* kept the peace". And now, hand in hand with her protest against the euro, comes the news that, in order to have a say in the Conservatives' poll on the euro, she has joined the Tory party — which is probably as *maverick as you can get these days.*

The wonder is that she ever voted Labour — which she unfailingly did, apart from the time she put a tick in the Green box — in the first place. Her father was a defence attaché whose diplomatic career took the family to a succession of sumptuous residences across Scandinavia and the Balkans. In Stockholm they lived in Strindberg's old house, which, the adult Hamnett was surprised to find, was replicated on the West End stage in one of his plays. Her mother had the well-heeled cosmopolitan's passion for fashion ("she and my grandmother really understood the potency of clothes") and an abiding fear of communism. She once rang her daughter at school to suggest that she skip the yoga classes: "They might have communist associations, you see."

Two of Hamnett's uncles were pilots who were killed in the war, one over Dresden, "and they didn't die so that 50 years later we would hand our sovereignty over to Germany, which is what will happen if we sign up to the euro". The family enjoyed lively discussions around the dinner table about politics, in which Fears About The Welfare State loomed large. Asked to elucidate, she says: "People have to take responsibility for themselves. They can't expect the State to do everything for them. Welfare can make people weak."

> 'I didn't set out to be a boss, it just happened'

That doesn't sound very left-wing, I say dubiously. "No, scary isn't it? But I think I was always more left of centre than left-wing."

She is too intelligent — and too chastened by the press, which over the years has gradually slotted her into a pigeonhole marked Loony — not to acknowledge the contradictions of her position. "For years they said I was a hypocrite because I was a vegetarian who sold leather jackets. Well, that was crap for a start because I was never vegetarian." She was so incensed about China's humanitarian record, especially in Tibet and Taiwan, that she wrote to Robin Cook. His reply, which referred to One China and which she found "abhorrent", was instrumental in her not voting in the last election. "I travel a lot and I just couldn't stand everyone thinking that he and Tony Blair represented my views."

And yet as the independent head of a business that sells £100 million worth of clothes and products worldwide, she does business with China, in Hong Kong. "And that's another thing I got very upset about — the handover," she says. "But no, I haven't stopped selling to those three shops in China . . . I realised that my unilateral sanctions probably weren't going to influence the Chinese Government." On the other hand, the company does not use cheap labour (although she hasn't visited all her factories) or PVC, the production of which, she says, emits huge amounts of dioxins into the atmosphere. "Just tell men it lowers the sperm count: that always gets them."

She is not loony, then, but definitely what an encouraging teacher at a very liberal school might call "independently spirited". (I once sat next to her in a restaurant as she tried to set fire with her cigarette to a man wearing shorts on the ground that he'd committed heinous crimes against style.) As a member of the design establishment, it would have been easy for her to have a voice within one of the new Government's "onside" committees, but she was honest enough not to.

"I think a lot of the people who did get involved now deeply regret it," she says. She is affronted by suggestions that she must thrive on furore. "God, all I really want is to spend time gardening and with my boys." She has two sons, aged 17 and 22. She is divorced from their father ("I was going to be the first woman in Britain to be sued for alimony") and clearly dotes on them. She observes that they both feel "politically excluded by the system", although it seems they are more preoccupied with preventing their mother from getting shot than campaigning for electoral reform. "Things did get a bit nasty in Italy with one of our licensees recently," she says. "I wanted to terminate our deal and he threatened to kill me. The boys were a bit worried, but that's the way things are in Italy."

This does not sound like a woman who wants to dedicate the rest of her life to her herbaceous border, yet you have to credit her courage in speaking out, especially when she can see the artillery lining up against her. Unless someone one day manages to prove that Coco Chanel's affair with a Nazi officer was a fiendishly clever ploy to subvert from within, fashion designers will never be renowned for their political acuity. Still, Hamnett argues that designers pay taxes and, like everyone else, deserve a say. "Anyway, I'm not speaking out as a fashion designer or as a businesswoman, but as someone who's concerned about the threats the EU poses to democracy. I don't want to embarrass the Tories, but someone has to speak out because there is no opposition to this Government."

Is she bored with fashion, then? "No. Does it look as though I am?" she asks defensively. For someone who was so influential in the 1980s — using fabrics such as parachute silk and lightly padded cottons and satins to make sexy, comfortable, hip clothes — she seems to have coasted for a while. She hasn't had a show for a year. "That was because of the dodgy licensee," she says. "We are showing in London next February." And she still loves it. "Not the vapid change for change's sake side of it, but the power it has to affect how people feel. You can adopt any image you want through clothes. They can make you happy, confident, sexy . . . powerful. I'm not interested in the fantastical, really expensive clothes any more — well, maybe the odd thing — but stuff people actually wear." Almost certainly this will include No To Euro T-shirtsand, yes, she says, pre-empting any howls of derision from her critics, profits will, as with the Pershing T-shirts, go to charity. "Did you know that in Ancient Greek taste and wisdom are the same word? What does that tell you about the importance of image?"

And what does it tell you about her energy and enthusiasm that after nearly 30 years in the business, she still believes in the transformative power of fashion? "I never set out to be a boss," she says, musing on the possibility of an alternative career. "It just happened. I didn't plan to have a global business, but it was grow or watch it all shrink. Anyway, compared with other worlds — the nuclear industry or politics — the fashion business is really rather sweet."

INS & OUTS

Beware, danger upfront

■ IF TRIUMPH'S new billboard results in car crashes, the cause will be Kelly Brook, pretender to the bra-girl throne. Measuring 30E, she also has the perfect face to promote Flaunt, a new bra collection of structurally sound yet pretty bras that are available only in DD, E and F cups. Triumph has spent the past two years creating the Flaunt range in response to figures that one in ten British women is a DD or above. Between £25 and £30, available from department stores (01793 720232).

■ MAKE life easy this year by doing all your Christmas shopping on one day with the help of *The Times* and Liberty, in Regent Street, London. On Sunday, November 22, from noon to 6pm, *Times* readers will receive 20 per cent off all furniture and lighting, 10 per cent off any other purchase, free gift-wrapping service, lunch for £10 (pre-booked only), as well as free car parking.

Special events include Lisa Armstrong, *The Times* Fashion Editor, making fashion presentations at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. The top ten Christmas gift selections from Lisa Grainger, the *Weekend* shopping editor, will be on show, and Jayne Dowle, the editor of *Metro*, will help with Christmas books from 4 to 5pm. The event is free, but to make a donation call Great Ormond Street on 0171-916 5678. The offers are redeemable only with a *Times* invitation. Send an sae to: *The Times*/Liberty Christmas Shopping Event, Customer Services, Level 4, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

■ MAIL ORDER is moving at hyper speed towards cool status, with cult shops The Cross, 3F and Graham & Green making it easier for those outside London to have greater access to up-and-coming underground labels and individual design pieces.

It requires nerves of steel to leave The Cross without a purchase, and that was before it stocked silk sari Mangit bags by Aatou, lace slip dresses by Dosa, Orchid flower flip-flops by Jackson and sumptuous pashminas (0171-221 8616). Anita Jenkins's 3F range of highly covetable items includes linen drawstring pants, velvet edged V-necks, trimmed cotton bedlinen and brightly coloured neoprene cushions (0171-387 9100).

Graham & Green's luxurious homewear can now be purchased direct. Check out sheepskin cushions, Damascan wooden backgammon sets and the small range of fashion items, including a Yoshiki Hishinuma checked jacket and John Rocha's jet-embroidered coat (0171-727 4594).

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TD 16

POP

Bonnie wows Shepherds Bush

THE TIMES ARTS

CLASSICAL

... while Bonney storms the Wigmore

FACING PAGE

Still doing it his way

Frank Sinatra's theme tune is more suited to Tony Bennett, says Clive Davis

Music, like everything else, goes in cycles. Tony Bennett is the epitome of good taste today; colour supplements want him on their covers, and he makes bestselling albums with titles such as *The Art of Excellence*.

But life was not so sweet 30 years ago. No longer big box-office at Columbia Records, Bennett had been eclipsed by Simon & Garfunkel and Janis Joplin. Executives were pressuring him to put his classic repertoire to one side and try his hand at contemporary pop songs. At one point, as he recalls in his newly published autobiography, he turned to his old partner Count Basie for advice. As laconic a conversationalist as he was a pianist, Basie offered the simplest of replies: "Why change an apple?"

The title of Bennett's book, *The Good Life*, tells you all you need to know about the professional rebirth he has enjoyed over the past decade. But the good life is not just measured in Grammy Awards or the spectacular view from his luxury apartment on the edge of Central Park. Bennett's prime achievement is to have fought his way back to the top of the pile without compromising his values.

The autobiography is like the man himself: discreet, modest and undemonstrative. The singer, christened Antonio Benedetto 72 years ago, tells his story with the minimum of melodramatics. Although he has presumably seen enough of the seamier aspects of the Las Vegas industry, the narrative prefers the sunny side of the street. Even a debilitating flirtation with cocaine in the 1970s is described in markedly down-to-earth terms.

He still tours constantly, regularly playing some 200 concerts a year, and has attained a measure of inner contentment. "I've run into a few no-no's in my life but I've finally reached the age where you realise that, hey, life is OK," he says. "It's just the middle that gets messed up."

Tony Bennett: "I've run into a few no-no's in my life"

What still agitates him, though, is what he sees as the self-destructive greed of the modern recording industry. New talent, he says, is seldom allowed time to flourish. The inevitable result is a drop in standards. "When I started the record company said: 'Here's a diamond in the rough, let's keep him for two to three years.' It was wonderful — it allowed me to experiment until I'd found myself.

"Today, acts have to come in with a finished product. Then the management will give them the hoof if it doesn't work out. And if it does sell, it's likely to be a false success. You have to be bigger than the Beatles, and in six months you are forgotten. So you end up with a castle in Spain: what are you going to do? Look at the wall?"

At the end of the 1960s Bennett found himself locked in a battle of wills with Columbia's new head, Clive Davis (who was later to found the Arista label and strike gold with the anodyne Whitney Houston). Urged to make a more commercial pop-orientated disc, Bennett was so torn by guilt at selling out that he threw up before the first studio session. He left the label in 1971, finally making a triumphant return 14 years later with the help of a shrewd new manager, his son Danny. We all know what happened after that.

The point, though, is not that Bennett was benefiting from some kitsch revival. All the albums he has made since his comeback have been founded on first-class musicianship.

It is striking that whereas Bennett's close friend, Frank Sinatra, invariably relied on orchestral arrangements, Bennett has long been drawn to the looser, riskier format of a trio or quartet, especially in concert. Bennett explains the contrast in generational terms. "Sinatra grew up in the big band era. I came of age after the war, when for many reasons — mainly economic — it was impossible to keep the bands going. To me, jazz is the most exciting music in the world, so I was attracted to the spontaneity of a small group. It's so functional, too. Instead of having long rehearsals with an orchestra when you're touring, you can improvise."

Bennett's greatest love, apart from music, is painting. *The Good Life* is lavishly illustrated with his landscapes, still lifes and portraits. He has a studio at his home, and the first thing you see inside the door of his apartment is a large photo-collage portrait of him created by his pal, David Hockney.

"Painting is like a psychiatrist's couch for me," he says. "There's no boardroom, no meetings. It teaches you the importance of concentration, and it kicks out laziness. Discipline ends up being your best friend."

● The Good Life *is published by Simon & Schuster. A new album,* The Essential Tony Bennett, *is released by Columbia*

Brought to book: some of the 54 dancers who perform Stephan Koplowitz's library work

Fine set of library steps

DANCE

Babel Index British Library

Dance Umbrella wanted something special for its 20th birthday festival so it turned to Stephan Koplowitz, the American who has built a career out of making monumental dances in the unlikeliest of places. Eleven years ago he created *Fenestrations* in the middle of New York's audacious Grand Central Station. Two years ago he created *Genesis Canyon* in the magnificent entrance hall of London's Natural History Museum. Last week he returned to London to give Dance Umbrella something special: *Babel Index*, custom-built to be performed inside the new British Library.

Koplowitz's choice of venue could not be more impressive. Sir Colin St John Wilson's building, opened in June, is spectacularly beautiful on the inside, an uplifting vista of sleek white lines and exhilarating perspectives. And for this production, it was radiantly lit by Simon Corder.

Books and learning is the theme of *Babel Index*. The 54 dancers read books, share books and experiment with the new ideas they find on the written page. The original electronic score is by Jonathan Stone, a soothing burble of sound that lulls the audience into a church-like reverence.

Babel Index is divided into three sections and the audience, herded into groups with tour guides, is required to walk around the building to see different dances in different locations. The first section features two casts of 12 dancers performing the same regimented choreography on two levels behind the King's Library. The choreography here is meant to be seen from above — unfortunately my group hit it on the level, so I never did see the letters of the alphabet which the dancers were forming with their rolling bodies. In *Babel Index* no two people see the same thing, and no one person sees it all.

In section two, groups of dancers are scattered over three levels, animating vestibules, staircases and towers. The finale should be Koplowitz's grand statement, and up until the last minute it is. Here all the dancers, clutching books, join together for a march of empowerment along the library's three long tiers. With the audience regrouped below in the entrance hall it is an exact reversal of the traditional theatrical experience: the audience at stage level, looking up into the best seats in the house.

The choreography is really humming at this point, with the ensemble stretched along the architecture like bits of the building come to life. But Koplowitz allows all this energy to peter away at the end in a whimper that deflates the high spirits. It is the one miscalculation in an inspired evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

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LIBERTY

CHANGING TIMES

Crowd pleaser

POP

LAST month we saw Bonnie Raitt supporting Eric Clapton on his Earls Court dates. She played a workmanlike 40-minute set, but it was not her audience and the cavernous hall lacked atmosphere. Out on her own at the Shepherds Bush Empire, this was her crowd, her sort of place and her night. With a four-piece band and assorted friends, she played an hour-and-a-half's driving rhythm and blues sprinkled with a few ballads, a touch of jazz and a little country — and then came back for another 30 minutes which still left them wanting more.

At 48 Raitt is singing and playing better than ever. Much of the material was drawn from her recent album *Fundamental*, although she mixed in old favourites such as a gritty *Thing Called Love* and a jazzy version of the torch ballad *I Can't Make You Love Me*. Her slide work on *Something to Talk About* recalled her old friend Lowell George and the band brewed up a steamy night in New Orleans.

J.B. Lenoir's *Round and Round* was a cool blues with slapping bass and brushed drums, but Raitt's musical voyage takes her far beyond the Mississippi. Recently she has been exploring her family's Celtic roots (she appears on the next Chieftains album) and she brought on Phil Cunningham on tin whistle for an exquisitely tender version of Richard Thompson's *Dimming of the Day*.

Second guitarist Joe Vito was an excellent foil (they were trading licks on slide guitars at one point) and at the end Hamish Stuart, formerly of the Average White Band, joined her for a dramatically soulful duet on *Tell it Like it is*. Raitt closed with a sublime *Angel from Montgomery* with lovely mandolin and accordion accompaniment and some heartbreaking harmonies.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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THEATRE: Matt Wolf meets the fabulous Crowley boys as they work together for the first time

DENZIL McNEILANCE

Relative merits: Bob (in leather jacket) and John Crowley seeing double during a break in rehearsals for *Into the Woods* at the Donmar Warehouse

Brothers not so grim

Family ventures in the theatre are nothing new, as the clannish *Three Sisters* productions of recent years, starring various Redgraves and Cusacks, can attest. Far more unusual is the behind-the-scenes enterprise now at the Donmar Warehouse, where John Crowley, the theatre's artistic associate, is directing a production of the musical *Into the Woods* designed by none other than his older brother, Bob, the Tony Award-winning Irishman whose distinguished CV includes *Amy's View*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and the Kevin Spacey *Iceman Cometh*.

More accustomed to Genet and Arthur Miller, John has never before directed a musical, and is now cutting his teeth on a Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine Broadway show from 1987 that lays bare the sometimes murderous, blighted heart of several ever-popular fairytales. The same show's West End debut in 1990 — directed by Richard Jones and designed by Richard Hudson — closed after five months, an alleged casualty of the tourist fall-off caused by the Gulf War.

By contrast with his brother, Bob is becoming a dab hand at musical theatre. He won his Tony in 1994 for the Broadway version of the National Theatre's famously Minimalist *Carousel*; was nominated this past season for Paul Simon's otherwise misbegotten *The Capeman*; and has just returned from Los Angeles, where he designed Cameron Mackintosh's relaunch of the Sondheim revue *Putting It Together*. All being well, Bob will spend much of the next six months as production designer on Nicholas Hytner's film of the stage musical *Chicago*, which is expected to star Goldie Hawn, Madonna and Kathy Bates.

Still, the big news among the Cork-born Crowleys is the maiden professional pairing of Bob, 45, and John, 29 (two sisters come between them). The age difference means that when Bob left home for drama school and a new life in England, John was only four. But the younger Crowley speaks of having seen "nearly everything" from the age of 11 onwards of his brother's work.

Their current venture, it seems, wasn't exactly fated. Bob: "I said I'd never work with him." John: "And when you said that, I thought, well, I'll never work with him, either." Bob: "I said it would be like incest." John: "Which it is." Bob: "Incest can be fun too, dear boy."

It didn't help that, as Bob candidly announces, he wasn't John's first choice, despite having worked in the Donmar in its prior incarnation as a home for the Royal Shakespeare Company. During that time, Bob designed plays by Ron Hutchinson, Howard Brenton and Ostrovsky (*The Forest*), all for this venue's special intimacy.

> ‘*Into the Woods* is ultimately about a sense of society’

"I just assumed you'd say no," John says to Bob, before turning back to the interviewer. "I did want to ask him from the start, but I never had the nerve to, frankly. It was also about growing up enough to be able to fight with him in production meetings." Bob, in turn, speaks of being seduced by "a show I love".

"I mean, I love all of Sondheim's stuff and had never done any. Now here I am with this and *Putting It Together* — a fantastic month of doing nothing but Sondheim, having waited all these years to do any."

Sondheim has become something of a house dramatist at the Donmar, following the venue's acclaimed stagings (both by the artistic director Sam Mendes) of *Company* and *Assassins*. What might this latest staging reveal of a show that — on Broadway anyway — was a rare commercial success for an artist who tends to find more favour with critics than audiences?

"We have distilled the show and had to simplify down a lot," says John. Both brothers saw the show's West End version at the Phoenix Theatre, but know the New York version only via video and the cast recording.

"There was a layer of irony at the Phoenix that we are trying to do away with. The show was held at arm's length, almost as if they were holding its impact at bay."

Bob speaks of retrieving "the emotional element of Sondheim that you don't often get in a contemporary musical, or if you do, it's a false emotion. *Into the Woods* is about community, ultimately, and society — and you will actually experience that in the Donmar space itself, rather than sitting back in a big proscenium theatre and being entertained by spectacle."

At the Donmar, adds Bob, "you are part of it; you can't get away from it. You are in it; you're in the woods."

Might this mark the start of further productions for the brothers Crowley? The two talk hopefully of such a prospect, with Bob citing a shared interest in "whole areas of music, including contemporary music, that would be fun to explore together".

But one project Bob won't be joining is John's forthcoming West End staging of *Macbeth*, which starts rehearsals in January for the producer Thelma Holt. Rufus Sewell takes the title role.

"Three times I've done that bloody play," Bob smiles. Indeed, as a fledgeling designer he walked off the infamous Peter O'Toole staging at the Old Vic in 1980. "I don't want to do it ever again. I can guarantee that: not much else, but that."

● Into the Woods *opens tonight at the Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, London WC2 (0171-369 1732)*

Concert victory on quality street

OPERA

Wozzeck
Festival Hall

If I make the unoriginal observation that big operas sound better in the concert hall than the opera house, it may seem like another swipe at Covent Garden. Not intended. Nevertheless, Saturday's enthralling concert performance of Alban Berg's harrowing masterpiece, with the Philharmonia Orchestra rampant under Christoph von Dohnányi's baton, did prompt the question: why bother with all the paraphernalia of staging opera, when music of this quality plays so powerfully in the theatre of the imagination?

With the orchestra on the concert platform, the complex and enriching relationship between Büchner's anguished drama and Berg's ever-shifting sound world suddenly becomes clear. Not just in the big moments, either — the death of Marie, or the justly renowned D minor Interlude — but in the chamber-music passages, where a single instrument will weave a subtext stronger than any words round the voice. Written in the 1830s, Büchner's story of the humiliated soldier goaded into a brutal act seems to anticipate many inhumane horrors of our own century. That is probably why Berg, traumatised by his own First World War experience, could pick up Büchner's thread so naturally almost a century later and translate it into a masterpiece that defined the sound and mood of nearly all 20th-century opera.

The strength of Dohnányi's interpretation was that it allowed this seminal score to make its own case. No overlaid histrionics: simply a scrupulous concern with clarity and cogency. With music this intense, and with a cast this good, that is enough.

In the title role Franz Hawlata admirably suggested a simple man being crushed into gabbling insanity. That magnificently proportioned Wagnerian, Deborah Polaski, may not be everyone's idea of the irresolute and vulnerable Marie — who would bet against her in a domestic fight? — but she was superbly assured in voice.

Graham Clark (Captain) and Eric Halfvarson (Doctor) were both in brilliantly sardonic form. Alan Woodrow added apt vocal swagger as the Drum Major. And any performance that can hire Ian Bostridge to sing precisely ten words as the Idiot is clearly going for quality right down the line. A gong collapsed at the climactic moment, but that should not spoil your enjoyment of Radio 3's relay on November 25.

RICHARD MORRISON

Waking dream of radiant bliss

RECITAL

Bonney/Ashkenazy
Wigmore Hall

Whenever the Wigmore Hall celebrates it does so in style, but even by its own standards the 1998 Gala Concert featured an especially starry duo: Barbara Bonney and Vladimir Ashkenazy. She has emerged as perhaps America's finest soprano and one of the pre-eminent Lieder singers today. He, a great pianist turned conductor, was making one of his all too rare appearances at the keyboard. In equal partnership, they gave us a recital to remember.

Only superlatives will do to describe this performance and the perfectly balanced programme, of which the first half was devoted to German Lieder and the second to Scandinavian song. Bonney and Ashkenazy opened with surely one of the most memorable interpretations of Schumann's *Frauenliebe und leben* to have been heard at the Wigmore Hall, idiosyncratic but never eccentric, in which each risk paid off.

The soprano's radiant tone suggested all the freshness of a young woman in love, but she was never afraid to let some of the colour drain away to expose inward feelings. Her opening came across as a waking dream. *Du Ring an meinem Finger* was warm and gentle, full of heartfelt simplicity; she held the stage as if delivering a soliloquy, both in the passages of delirious happiness and the pain which stings so hard at the end.

Ashkenazy's postlude here carried great emotion, and if the piano parts stood out more than usual, they never dominated. He was similarly self-effacing in the group of three Brahms songs, but his imaginative way with these accompaniments drew sparks from Bonney. Time seemed suspended in *Wir wandelten*, sung in golden voice, and in a spellbinding account of *Von ewiger Liebe*.

Bonney is equally able to convey the very Nordic tragedy with which so many Sibelius songs deal, and the painful cry of *Flickan kom* was heartrendingly vivid. With her wide-ranging choice including the witty *Vilse*, she made the case for Sibelius as one of the great songwriters, and few voices can be better suited than hers to the composer's evocation of a diamond glittering in freshly fallen snow. Grieg's *Sechs Lieder* range from feelings of frivolity to numbness, and both singer and pianist rollercoasted towards the ecstatic close of *Ein Traum*. Encores by Grieg, Sibelius and Schumann brought this recital full circle.

JOHN ALLISON

This week in THE TIMES

■ DANCE

The hoofing percussion phenomenon Stomp sweeps on to the Roundhouse stage
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ THEATRE

The Peter Hall Co takes its final bow with *Kafka's Dick* starring Eric Sykes
OPENS: Thurs, Piccadilly
REVIEW: Next Week

■ OPERA

Simon Holt's new opera at the Huddersfield Festival stars Patricia Rozario
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Next week

■ FILM

Car chases abound in the old-style action thriller *Ronin* with Robert De Niro
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Cliff Richard is in celebratory mood at the *Albert Hall tomorrow*

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Don't let him off the hook now

Saddam must be put to the test, says Lawrence Freedman

Saddam Hussein probably did not realise just how close to the brink he was getting when he caved in over allowing the UN weapons inspectors back into Iraq. American B52s had to be called back from delivering the first wave of cruise missiles. The fact that he had left it so late reflects more the extent of his miscalculation than a steady nerve.

Saddam's philosophy has always been to probe for areas of weakness while being prepared to veer away from hopeless confrontations. For much of 1998 he has assumed that the international coalition ranged against him has been getting weaker. The deal brokered last February by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, had gained him a semblance of control over the activities of the UN weapons inspectors (Unscom), plus the prospect that sanctions on Iraq would be lifted. As Unscom got back to work, he continued playing cat and mouse, and noted that the allies appeared unwilling to back up the inspectors. The combination of this tentativeness with President Clinton's domestic problems led him to end all co-operation with the UN.

> Stand-offs are a ritual which will end in tragedy

His objective had probably been to extract yet another deal that would offer a more definite timetable on the end of sanctions, and the inspectors having to accept even more restrictions (of the sort contained in a "wish list" annexed to his letter to the UN accepting the return of Unscom).

There was evidence by late October that the UN was prepared to move in this direction. But Saddam overplayed his hand, underestimating President Clinton's powers of political recovery. Washington and London moved forward carefully and systematically, building an international consensus for decisive action. Iraq found itself bereft of support and without an easy escape route. Most ominous for Saddam was the growing sense that the allies believed Unscom to have run its course and were, in effect, preparing to replace it with air policing. After striking suspicious sites, where weapons were believed to be constructed or stored, they would then settle down to constant surveillance with occasional action against any prohibited military activity.

The familiar claims were made by the opponents of military action in the West that objectives were uncertain; that intelligence was bound to be faulty and missiles would stray from their targets; that whatever the Arab governments might say, the street was on Saddam's side; that the Iraqi leader only had to survive to have won a victory of sorts; and that it was unreasonable to expect concessions on his part without something from the allies to help him to "save face".

Saddam's calculation appears to have been of a simpler sort. His military options were to play victim to an irresistible force, or go for a sort of *Götterdämmerung*, and take as much of his neighbourhood as possible down with him. Asked to choose between a loss of prestige and a loss of vital strategic assets, he opted for the former. He had left himself without evident diplomatic wriggle room, no means to obscure retreat, no confusion over victors and losers.

The allies will now press their advantage and insist on early tests of the new promises of full co-operation with the inspection teams while the military strike force is still in the area. They might also start to consider where this long-running saga with Iraq is going. The stand-offs are acquiring a ritualistic character, but some day one of them is going to end in tragedy — as this one nearly did.

Their superior military power enables the allies to keep Saddam on the hook but they cannot haul him in. There is a strong conviction that there can be no new start with Iraq while the current regime is in power. This was expressed yesterday by President Clinton, who promised to work with "forces of change" in Iraq. However, attempts to engineer Saddam's removal from either inside or outside Iraq have foundered on the divisions among his domestic opponents and the precautions that flow from his well-developed sense of paranoia. His downfall is as likely to result from the gun of a deranged bodyguard as from a calculated political move.

The main instrument of pressure has been economic sanctions, but these have turned into a double-edged sword. While the dire conditions of the Iraqi people remain Saddam's responsibility, the fact is that the allies are blamed. This puts his domestic opponents on the defensive, while allowing the regime to control all economic transactions, sufficiently at least to ensure that the security forces are well catered for.

If the purpose of the embargo is to stimulate an insurrection, then that implies making life even more miserable for ordinary people. This not only goes against its stated purpose but the evidence supporting such a strategy is flimsy. The most compelling counter-example is Fidel Castro's 40 years in power in Cuba. Saddam has probably most to fear from an opening up of the Iraqi economy than continual closure. If the objective is to enforce UN resolutions, then experience suggests that this has to be done through military means.

America and Britain have regained the initiative after appearing to have lost it. It would be best if a proper review of sanctions came from them, not as a grudging concession, but as a reflection of their confidence in their ability now to contain Iraq as a threat to its neighbours.

Labour's obsession with discipline is a sign of weakness which can end only in general mutiny

Remember the Bounty, Mr Blair

William Rees-Mogg

Last week Michael Portillo revived Tory fears of division over Europe; the Labour Party ran the opposite risk of too tight a discipline. New Labour has not learnt how to handle even the mildest dissent. This almost hysterical reaction is apparent in its approach to the new Scottish parliament, to the Welsh assembly, to the system for European elections, to the House of Lords, to the mayor of London, to the National Executive, to Labour MPs, even in Alastair Campbell's attempts to bully the press.

This is a sign of brittleness, not of strength; it shows a lack of self-confidence. If one looks at the individual cases, they show an unmistakable pattern of conduct. In none of them does the suppression of opposition have substantial justification, though some are more plausible than others. Dennis Canavan has been excluded from the selections of the Scottish parliament, although he has served for 25 years as a very respected Labour MP. He is not a rebel, though he is his own man. His exclusion reflects new Labour's fear of independence of mind.

The Blair machine is doing everything in its power to prevent Rhodri Morgan from becoming the Labour leader in the Welsh assembly. He, too, is an MP of considerable experience, not an habitual rebel, old Labour only in the sense that most of the Welsh Labour Party is old Labour. If the new orthodoxy is too narrow to include Dennis Canavan and Rhodri Morgan, it will alienate Labour support in Scotland and Wales. The attitudes of Scottish and Welsh Labour voters are much closer to those of Canavan and Morgan than to those of Blair and Campbell.

The Ken Livingstone issue is rather different. He is a natural rebel; a man of the Left who would not be Tony Blair's first choice as mayor of London. Yet he is popular; he would almost certainly be the first choice of Londoners generally. The argument for having a directly elected mayor is to give them this democratic choice. No doubt Mr Livingstone would take some decisions that might embarrass Mr Blair; that sort of thing happens in a democracy. Yet London survived Mr Livingstone as chairman of the GLC, even if not a good one, and will no doubt survive if he becomes mayor.

Now we have an unnecessary "constitutional crisis" between the Government and the House of Lords over closed lists. The Government favours proportional representation for the election of Members of the European Parliament; that was in the election manifesto, and is universally accepted. The manifesto did not refer to the question of whether the lists should be closed, that is decided by the party bosses, or open, that is decided by the electorate.

Hardly anyone believes that the closed-list system would be preferable, or indeed that it is defensible in democratic terms. It would increase Tony Blair's power to discipline Labour MEPs: they would be under his thumb. In the House of Lords' debate last Thursday, only one speaker defended the closed-list system; that was Lord Williams of Mostyn, who had the thankless task of replying to the debate for the Government. For a moment I thought that Lord McNally was going to defend it in his speech for the Liberal Democrats. He did threaten crossbenchers that we had better vote for the Government, or we might suffer some terrible but unknown fate. Even his speech, which was pretty preposterous, did not attempt to justify the closed list.

The Liberal Democrats are indeed opposed to the closed list as such, though naturally they voted for it; the Conservatives are against it; crossbenches are almost all against it; even Labour peers who voted for the closed list expressed their dislike of it. Lord Alton of Liverpool, who sits as a crossbencher, put the reason very simply: "It is not desirable that the party should exercise that degree of discipline. Severing the umbilical cord which links an candidate with the people in the constituencies is an act of folly."

The House of Lords has now rejected the closed-list system for the third time; the Government is refusing to back down, so the issue remains open. The House of Lords is doing its job of defending the constitution. The non-elected House is defending democracy, while the elected House is failing to do so because the Labour whips will not let it. In constitutional changes, it is dangerous for whips to force the elected House to vote for anti-democratic proposals.

This debate between the two Houses strengthened the argument that the Prime Minister's power to control the Lords, as well as the Commons, should not be increased. If the hereditary peers are abolished without a democratic reform, the Lords will become a House of placemen; we can see from the division list that the Labour placemen do substitute Tony Blair's judgment for their own. It is a case of one man, one vote; Tony Blair is the man and he is the vote as well. How otherwise could Melvyn Bragg, a liberal-minded intellectual, have voted for bosses' power and the closed list?

If this pattern of over-discipline did not exist, I might not be too worried about the individual decisions. Governments want to get their own way; they use the power of patronage to persuade people to vote as the Government wants. Whips have always twisted arms to get their majorides. But British political life has for centuries been very tolerant of different opinions and has recognised that parliamentary democracy depends on such tolerance. That essential spirit of liberalism does not exist in the present Government.

This obsession with control will come to no good. The British political culture is independent-minded. Most of us are very far from being left-wing socialists. Why do we feel an instinctive admiration for characters such as Tony Benn or Ken Livingstone? Most of us would hate the kind of society they believe in. We recognise, however, that we share fundamental convictions with them, the belief in democracy, in free speech, in the right of the individual to speak his mind. Enoch Powell held the same beliefs. In this respect, Britain is still a Protestant country. Our whole culture is based on respect for the individual conscience, for Ken Livingstone's just as much as for Tony Blair's.

One does not need to be a Marxist, or a Hegelian, to know that every historic action produces a reaction. In religion, the overt discipline of Vatican One eventually led to the relaxation of Vatican Two. Archbishop Laud was a reforming moderniser of the 17th-century Church of England, but he was a control freak. He ended on the block. Nothing promotes dissent like the attempt to suppress it. If Tony Blair wants to provoke Scotland, Wales, the House of Lords, the Labour Party, even the press, he is setting the right way about it. He will provoke the electorate as well. He could still carry people with him, if only he would learn to accept criticism, without resorting to a discipline which would have seemed excessive on Captain Bligh's *Bounty*.

New Labour hits and myths

Mr Blair must win the ideological argument if he is to succeed, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair needs to convince his party rather than merely control it. The reinvention of Labour as a new party will be achieved only by winning the ideological battle, rather than by using procedural devices to outmanoeuvre opponents.

Mr Blair has always has an uneasy relationship with his party. In his first conference speech as leader in 1994 he joked that some delegates had supported him because "you think I can win". As a winner, he is respected, even admired. But he is not liked by many activists. He is not one of them, in the way that Neil Kinnock and John Smith were. Mr Blair has freely admitted that he was not born into the Labour Party, but chose it.

The Left is correct to suspect Mr Blair's intentions. He does want to create a new party. But new Labour is much more than SDP Mark II, despite similarities of approach. The SDP failed largely because Labour did not disintegrate in 1981-83. Moreover, the SDP was never able to develop roots in Labour's industrial and inner-city strongholds, among trade unionists and on council estates. As Ivor Crewe and Anthony King show in their definitive *SDP*, the only group where the party had a particular appeal, the public sector bureaucracy, was too small to matter.

By contrast, the Blairites have seized control of an existing party with deep roots and broad support. They have consistently sought to bypass and weaken party activists and trade union leaders in order to create new Labour. This has involved both greater centralisation and appeals over the head of activists to party members and the public.

Organisational reforms — the extension of one-member, one vote, changes to the annual conference and to the structure of the national executive, with more to come — have been a means to an end. The key has always been the ideological argument, to show that the creation of new Labour is the only way to win elections and to govern successfully. That is why rewriting Clause Four on the party's aims was so important. The Left was challenged and failed to produce a coherent alternative.

Mr Blair always claims that Labour has changed — that many MPs elected in May 1997 and new, younger members in the country support his approach. So they do, but this may not be enough. Many local activists, who dominate constituency parties and local councils, remain old Labour and mistrustful of the Blairites. Some of the new members, attracted in the 1994-97 period, have already dropped out or, more important, not become active in their local parties. The success of the anti-leadership slate in the national executive elections showed how much the Blairites still have to do.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The temptation has been to use procedural methods, such as interviews, to exclude unsuitable or disloyal candidates before ordinary members have the chance to vote. Not only does this contradict the Government's talk of decentralisation and pluralism but it feeds the charge that the Blairites are authoritarian. "Control freak" has entered the Tory and press lexicon, along with "cronyism", as a catchy, and damaging, charge against Mr Blair.

This approach will not work in the long term. In most cases, the national leadership should step back and allow locals their free say. After all, the credibility of Labour in both Scotland and Wales will depend on their independence from London. However, the leadership is bound to want to prevent critics such as Ken Livingstone from taking the high-profile post of London mayor. But to block him by procedural means would create widespread disillusionment. The leadership needs to tackle the Livingstone myth head-on. His period as leader of the Greater London Council may, at times, have been entertaining but it was a period of vacuous gesture politics and fiscal irresponsibility. His reputation now as the People's Ken is almost entirely the result of Margaret Thatcher's decision to abolish the GLC. Mr Livingstone is the wrong person to be mayor of London. I can see why Mr Blair himself does not want to create a "Ken versus No 10" contest, but no other Labour leaders are yet willing publicly to challenge Mr Livingstone. However, they will have to do so if he is to be stopped.

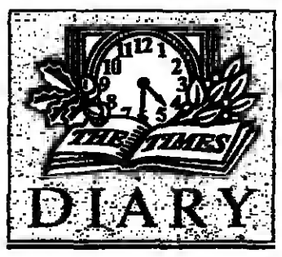
Similarly, the Blairites cannot relax the policy battle. Mr Blair believes that the party does not yet fully realise how tough it may become, not only because of the economic downturn but also over radical measures on teachers' pay and performance.

The Blairites hope that old Labour will acquiesce, however sullenly, in these step-by-step changes as long as Mr Blair remains successful. But, at some stage, there may be a split, though the failure of the Scargillite Socialist Labour Party to make any impact is a powerful deterrent. Mr Blair is developing his options in the centre by extending formal consultation with Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats beyond constitutional reform to include also Europe and some social policies. That is intended to broaden support for the Government and as a step towards the possible creation of a Centre-Left coalition/alliance.

Despite rumblings from John Prescott and the Left, Mr Ashdown, rather than Mr Blair, has taken the greatest risks and will have a tricky time at his federal executive later today. But, as Mr Ashdown said yesterday, it is illogical to oppose such co-operation when that is the inevitable result of proportional representation and when a Lab-Lib Dem coalition is the most likely outcome of next May's Scottish elections.

Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown talked in their joint statement of "challenging the destructive tribalism that can afflict British politics". In the long term, the only way such tribalism can be beaten is by open argument rather than by central diktat. New Labour has to be seen publicly to defeat old Labour.

Cut and thrust



JILLY COOPER has been ordered to slash her next novel by more than half. And the vastly successful pulp fictionalist is furious with her publisher. "I've been happier," Jilly, pictured left, tells me. "It's an absolutely monumental cut. They also want me to introduce a happy couple, so I'm going to put the Blairs in." Transworld has changed the title *Who killed Ronnaldini?* to *Score*, which sets the tone rather. "It is possible they thought it was very boring. I've been getting only four hours' sleep for the last six weeks." If proof were needed of the depression of the Queen of the Blockbuster, the inveterate socialite missed a party by her agent, Desmond Elliot, celebrating 50 years in the trade.

While Anthony Cheetham and Candida Lycett Green, pictured, the daughter of Sir John Betjeman, whooped it up, the author of *Polo* remained in Gloucestershire glaring at her word processor. She sent a red rose and her husband Leo instead, who explained frankly: "We are having a domestic crisis." Jilly's works tend to be secreted in the maid's parlour rather than in the Diary Towers library, but I wish her well. "I am surviving the humiliation," she says stoically.

● *WITH inestimable timing, the Church of England has dropped its centuries-old ban against hankering after one's neighbour's ass. An updated Ten Commandments, issued by the General Synod, suggests "thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's ass" be replaced by "you shall not covet your neighbour's donkey". Would not an edict against eyeing up next door's Jag be more appropriate?*

The old Bill

WHILE the Prince of Wales strives so publicly to persuade us that he is a thoroughly modern chap, his office at St James's Palace continues in traditional vein. William van Cutsem has just been signed up as an intern for six weeks. He is the son of Hugh, the Prince's shooting companion and one of the controversial hunters who stirred up trouble for the National Trust a few weeks back.

When I asked Kiloran McGregor, a St James's Palace flunkey, if William was a New Dealer, her response was: "A new what?" Once she was briefed on Tony Blair's solution to youth unemployment, she admitted the Prince has never had any plans to participate. How reassuring to know that he is not taking this modernisation malarky too seriously.

● *WHEN Meryl Streep failed to appear on David Letterman's* The Late Show *alongside George Michael, the singer suggested a unique solution: "There was someone backstage telling me to put on a blonde wig and speak in foreign languages." His host responded: "Samething you are used to."*

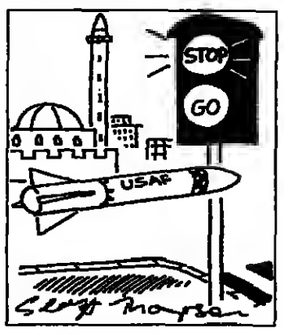
How Beastly

LIZ DAVIES has effortlessly grasped the baton from Dennis Skinner. After his defeat in the elections for Labour's NEC, the woman whom Tony Blair failed to block from gaining a seat on the group has been off message. Davies faces a ticking-off by her colleagues tomorrow for breaking the rules about making a noise in public.

All new NEC members were told last month that if they spoke to the media they must either quote the orthodoxy or make it clear they were expressing their own opinions. But Davies strode on to *On The Record* last weekend and criticised the leadership's handling of Ken Livingstone, failing to make clear she was voicing her individual views.

Brenda Etchells, the NEC chairwoman, and Maggie Prosser, its treasurer, I hear, found Davies's televisual performance particularly galling. "Liz hasn't even attended a full NEC meeting and has already put her foot in it," says one committee member. I look forward to further on-screen appearances by the Beastette of Barnsbury.

● *CROWD control. Her Majesty's way. During the Prince of Wales's somewhat informal bash at Buck House last Friday, I noticed the Queen accompanied throughout by two doughty courtiers. As she progressed around the party attended by 850 guests, the pursuivants, acting like motorbike outriders, charmingly, yet effectively, kept the crowds at bay. To one group, particularly keen to surge from behind to bend Her Majesty's ears, one of the courtiers, a lady-in-waiting, elegantly dressed and in her Fifties, hinted: "The Queen rarely walks backwards." The polite advice was duly followed.*



Fan club

AFTER his ignominious treatment by some of Cheltenham's Tories, I am pleased to see Lord Taylor of Warwick reconfirming his membership of the great and the good. The former barrister has been made vice-president of the British Board of Film Classification.

As one might expect, the black peer's taste in films is conservative and patriotic: *Chariots of Fire* is among his favourites. I hope he does not clash with Robin Duval, the BBFC's new director-elect, a liberal-minded sort. "I have met Robin, and politics has nothing to do with this new role," Taylor tells me. "Anyway, we have a bond no man could break: we are both Aston Villa supporters."

● *JOAN COLLINS'S take on Monica Lewinsky: "I cannot believe the size of her butt. If she does appear in* Playboy, *it will have to be an extra big edition."*

RIP Roddy

IN DEATH, Roddy McDowall helped to resolve one of Hollywood's most bitter feuds. According to Dominick Dunne, the American man of letters, Elizabeth Taylor, pictured, and Sybil Burton Christopher visited the ape impersonator as he stood at death's door.

"The two ex-wives of Richard Burton I believe had not been in the same room since 1962 in Rome during the shooting of *Cleopatra* when Liz fell in love with Sybil's then husband," Dunne reports. "It is said that the two women held hands as they sat with their dying friend." One can only wonder what Sybil had to say to Elizabeth.

JASPER GERRARD

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

THE LAST WORD

Saddam must not get another chance to cheat

Iraq's retreat has again staved off American and British air attacks, this time a mere hour before B-52s went into action over Iraq. Saddam Hussein's undertaking "to resume working with the UN Special Commission", the expert team attempting to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction, will again be put to the test. Again, Saddam has bought time, weeks if not months. But the pattern is less familiar than it seems, if the Iraqi dictator assumes that he can revert to his old pattern of obstruction, there is reason to believe the British and American statements that diplomacy will not be given another chance. This latest confrontation has followed a pattern much like previous ones; but the degree of determination is now far greater, not only in Washington and London but in other capitals.

In the 24 hours between Iraq's initial letter to the United Nations and President Clinton's decision to suspend the air offensive, the US has insisted on nailing Saddam down far more firmly than in the past. Iraq has been forced to confirm, in highly specific terms, that it will comply unconditionally with all its obligations under the UN ceasefire resolutions. Allowing Unscom to hunt for material that the regime persists in hiding will not suffice. Compliance means, Mr Clinton emphasised, an end to concealment. Iraq must answer all outstanding questions about its weapons and stocks, surrender all the documents it has been hiding from Unscom inspectors, and allow immediate, unrestricted access to every site or office they decide to visit. If Saddam reverts to form, Tony Blair insists, he will face military action "without warning".

After seven years of Iraqi deception, the most categorical of Western statements will inevitably be received with some scepticism. It was, after all, only days ago that the British Government claimed to have concluded that Saddam would never make a full disclosure of his illegal arsenals, because to do so would weaken his grasp on power. Saddam has vastly less room for manoeuvre now than he secured from Kofi Annan last February. Yet that deal was also billed, by Robin Cook in this newspaper, as a pledge of "full and unrestricted access for Unscom throughout Iraq," with "no room for compromise". The task was "to make it stick", and Britain and the US would "keep a military presence in the area until we are sure that Saddam's words are matched by his deeds."

President Clinton has used almost identical language. What alters its significance is that compliance will be assessed against a detailed checklist of demands. Iraq has, for example, refused pointblank to hand over a vital document, snatched from the hands of UN inspectors who discovered it last July, detailing Iraq's 1991 holdings of chemical weapons. It has also refused to account for the presence of VX nerve gas on a fragment of warhead, to provide full data on its Scud missiles, to come clean on its biological weapons programme or to supply lists of the companies which sold it arms, dual use technology or chemical precursors.

Provided Unscom gets satisfactory answers on all these counts, on demand, Mr Clinton is right that resumed inspections are preferable to bombs; even without Iraqi co-operation, Unscom has located and destroyed far more banned material than air power did during Desert Storm. The B-52s have concentrated minds in Baghdad. But last week's bleak assessment that Saddam will never comply in full could still be the correct one. Iraq has had its clearest warning since 1990. If it does not meet each last obligation, it knows what to expect. This was diplomacy's last throw.

LABOUR'S BLINDSPOT

A compromise that will slowly destroy grammar schools

Britain's grammar schools, which modernisers should be defending as bastions of educational excellence, continue to be held hostage to ancient Labour prejudices. For years, Labour ideologues argued for their abolition and a fully comprehensive system. The disciples of new Labour, terrified of alienating middle-class parents but offended by the supposedly "unfair" nature of selection, have tried to steer a middle course. The leadership's Third Way is to forbid the creation of new grammar schools, while allowing parents to vote to close existing ones. Tomorrow the House of Commons will debate the procedure under which these ballots will be held.

In opposition, David Blunkett told the Labour conference to watch his lips when he pledged "no selection, either by examination or by interview, under a Labour Government". Months before the election, the policy changed. The idea of parental ballots was flagged. "We've never been in favour of abolishing schools" Mr Blunkett assured parents. Senior Labour sources insisted that "grammar schools are safe in Labour's hands".

In office, the Education Secretary has tried to square this circle by concocting a complex two-stage system. To trigger a ballot, 20 per cent of parents must ask for one. In predominantly selective areas, all parents with children under 16 will have a say. Opponents of selection in Kent, for instance, will need more than 40,000 signatures to force a vote. In areas with few grammar schools, the vote goes to those parents with children at primary schools which have sent at least five pupils to a grammar school over the past three years.

But that is not the end of the story. If a campaign fails to raise sufficient signatures for a petition, a new offensive can begin in the next academic year. If a majority of parents votes against the grammar school's abolition, another ballot can be held five years later. This is a recipe for permanent instability for the schools and dispute among parents. It will neither comfort parents, nor satisfy Labour's Left.

The Government's commitment to raising educational standards makes this surrender to ideology the more absurd. At the least, if a petition fails to attract enough support, that should close the case for at least five years. Conservatives should not only press for that amendment; they should continue to make the intellectual case for selection. The abolition of grammar schools will undermine diversity of provision, an essential feature of any system that caters for the differing abilities of every child.

Far from selection damaging the education of children who fail to win a grammar school place, research suggests that it helps to match teaching to the gifts of each pupil. One recent survey has compared exam results in England and Wales with those in Northern Ireland, which has an almost fully selective system. At 14, English pupils are lagging up to 18 months behind their counterparts in Ulster; and 52 per cent of pupils achieve five or more A-C grades at GCSE in the Province, while only 42 per cent do so on this side of the Irish Sea. Selection would therefore appear to benefit all pupils, not just those attending grammar schools. Outworn ideology should have no place in serious educational reforms. Mr Blunkett has been prepared to face down Luddism among teachers. He needs to show equal courage when it comes to the Labour Left.

THE LEONID ROARS

Showers of meteorites can still herald disaster

Guy Fawkes Night was a damp squib this year. Firework parties were subdued by drizzle. But now, admirers of pyrotechnic displays may be offered a second chance. As the Earth hurtles headlong into a cosmic dust storm, skygazers expect the most spectacular celestial firework display for decades.

Every year, around this time, the Earth crosses the orbit of a comet called Tempel-Tuttle and passes through the debris it has shed. Fragments of stardust hit the Earth's atmosphere at some forty miles a second and burn up in a blaze of glory. This meteor shower, known as the Leonids because it seems to radiate from the constellation Leo, is noticeable each November. But every 33 years the Earth runs into an especially dense dust cloud and a meteor shower becomes a blizzard. Tomorrow the Far East will probably enjoy the best show. When the constellation Leo rises over the horizon after midnight, the sky may rain shooting stars.

In an earlier, more superstitious age, a meteor was believed to presage disaster. Before the "mightiest Julius fell", wrote Shakespeare, "stars with trains of fire and dews of blood" appeared in the sky. Newspaper reports from 1833, when a great Leonid meteor storm broke over America, tell of bewildered citizens falling to the ground, imploring mercy of their God, believing that the Day of Judgment had come. But it was this great 1833 storm which prompted the birth of meteor science. By 1966, when the most recent Leonid meteor storm came, it seemed to those who witnessed it, a spectacle rather than a herald of cataclysm.

Times change. Since 1966, the amount of space hardware orbiting the Earth has rocketed. The Leonids could spell cataclysm once more as more than 600 spacecraft are put at risk of bombardment by meteoroids which, though they may be smaller than a grain of sand and finer than a human hair, have a momentum as high as a .22 bullet. When a meteor pelted the European Space Agency's Olympus satellite in 1993, it destroyed its directional control. And the sudden magnetic fields which the particles generate can also disrupt satellite electronics.

Tommorrow, rocket launches will be suspended, the Hubble Space Telescope will turn away, and satellites' solar panels will be moved out of the line of fire. But still, if a communications satellite is hit, telephone, radio and television systems could be thrown into chaos. And even if the world's satellites come through the blasting unscathed, it may still be too soon for a sigh of relief. Many astronomers believe that the Earth will pass wide of the most perilous part of Tempel-Tuttle's debris stream this year. The densest area will be encountered on November 17 next year. The meteor, it seems, can still presage disaster.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Argentine leader's hopes for peace

From the President of the Argentine Republic

Sir, I was pleased to read General Sir Ian Gourlay's letter (October 30) in which he refers to a scene one morning in 1983 at the United World College, which is attended by many Argentine students.

I fully concur with the feelings expressed by Sir Ian, his remembrance of the dead on both sides in a futile war and with his emphasis on the Argentine and British flags flying together over the college's ancient castle walls.

Whether this be the beginning of a solution — or whether it be any other one which goodwill and imagination allow — I am happy to reiterate, as I did during my recent visit to the United Kingdom, the conviction that our peoples have ahead of them a single and inevitable future of mutual peace and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,
CARLOS MENEM,
Balcarce 50, Buenos Aires.
November 13.

Human rights

From Professor Jeffrey Jowell, QC

Sir, Claims that the Human Rights Act, which received the Royal Assent on Monday, November 9, will involve a significant transfer of power from Parliament to the judges (report, October 27; letters, October 31 and November 6) are misleading and distort the aims of the Act.

Its fundamental purpose is to impose certain limits on the power of Parliament because those limits are inherent in a truly democratic society. No democracy worthy of its name — whatever the zeal of the majority of voters — should sanction torture, impose degrading treatment or breach the other civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Convention permits some rights, such as freedom of expression, to be restricted but only when "necessary in a democratic society" — for example, to preserve national security in times of conflict. In deciding whether that test has been met, the courts will assess whether the restriction is carefully and proportionately designed ("necessary" and not merely vaguely desirable), with the effect of maintaining and not subverting democracy. Such a decision by no means releases judges to impose their subjective views of the "merits" of a particular government policy.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREY JOWELL
(Professor of Public Law),
Faculty of Laws,
University College London,
Bentham House,
Endsleigh Gardens, WC1H 0EG.
November 9.

Welfare reforms

From the Under Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, Mrs Elizabeth Bray and others (letter, October 28) call for the modernisation of the therapeutic earnings concession in incapacity benefit.

The Government's key principle of welfare reform is to help people with long-term illnesses and disabilities to get back into work wherever they can. The therapeutic work provisions are a valuable stepping-stone for sick and disabled people who want to work. That's why we have announced that from next April the limit on earnings from therapeutic work in incapacity benefit will increase from £48 to £58 a week.

We want to remove the obstacles faced by sick and disabled people trying to return to work. For example, from October 5 we extended the period during which benefit rights are protected from eight weeks to 52 weeks for those leaving incapacity benefit for work. At the same time we abolished the 16 hours a week limit on the amount of unpaid work by those on incapacity benefit, since voluntary work can greatly assist the transition back to work.

In addition, the new disabled person's tax credit planned for introduction in October 1999 will be more generous than the disability working allowance it replaces. It will offer lower income tapers, higher earnings thresholds and improved help with childcare costs.

In taking our welfare reforms forward, we will consult with disabled people, their organisations and others with an interest. Our proposals on support for disabled people are contained in *A new contract for welfare: support for disabled people*, published on October 28.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN TIMMS,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS.
November 6.

Sport letters, page 34

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Livingstone's record in London

From the Director of The Institute of Economic and Political Studies

Sir, I read with wry amusement (report, November 11) that Mr Tony Blair is seeking a business figure with considerable executive experience to step forward to fill the office of the first elected mayor of London.

During 1983 I went as part of a top-level CBI team from the London region to lobby Mr Ken Livingstone, then leader of the GLC, on behalf of hard-pressed businessmen who felt themselves to be the palpable victims of the GLC's anti-business ethos.

After quite a friendly meeting with Mr Livingstone about the work of the Greater London Enterprise Board, the director of a large London firm, known for his Thatcherite views, exclaimed to the astonishment of his colleagues that "Ken Livingstone was a dynamic chap whom he would have been delighted to have had as a member of his management team". Pressed to explain his admiration for Mr Livingstone, he declared: "He's a strong leader with a true strategic vision."

This was a view we did not share. Were we wrong? Surely Londoners deserve better strategic leadership than the prospect of a re-run of the GLC's myopic and doctrinaire policies which the effervescent Ken Livingstone did so much to promote at the lamentable cost to business growth and jobs.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Director,
The Institute of Economic and Political Studies,
Warkworth House,
Warkworth Terrace,
Cambridge CB1 1EE.
November 11.

From Mr Denis Meehan

Sir, The Prime Minister "is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London". I am not aware that Tony Blair has had any significant business experience and yet most objective observers regard him as an excellent Prime Minister.

As a London Labour Party member, I would certainly not vote for Ken Livingstone if he made the shortlist: of the candidates bruited so far my preference would be for Heather Rabbatts. But I do not think that Livingstone should be excluded.

Surely democracy requires us to trust the electorate, whether within political parties or in the wider world.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MEEHAN,
238 Upper Richmond Road,
London SW15 6TG.
November 11.

From Mr George Stern

Sir, Peter Riddell propagates a Livingstone myth in asserting that under Ken Livingstone, the GLC's "low-fares campaign was fiscally irresponsible and was eventually blocked in the courts" ("Why the Blairites must debunk this Livingstone myth", November 11).

It is true that in 1981, in an atmosphere of national hysteria, the Court of Appeal and House of Lords reversed the London fares cut. But Livingstone's GLC started cutting fares again in 1983 after getting the go-ahead from the courts.

That the fare cuts were a success can be seen from a study of the year-on-year figures as published, for example, in the *Annual Abstract of Statistics* (Central Statistical Office, 1988 Edition). Livingstone led the GLC from 1981 to 1986. In that period London Underground fares per kilometre were reduced, allowing for inflation, by 27 per cent. Over the same period, passenger-kilometres increased by 52 per cent, and fares revenue actually increased by 10 per cent, again allowing for inflation. So, far from being "fiscally irresponsible", cutting fares led to a lower, not a higher, fares subsidy.

Livingstone was proved right in this — but in England being right is the surest path to political oblivion.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE STERN,
6 Eton Court,
6 Shepherds Hill, N6 5AF.
November 11.

Children's hospices

From Mrs Heather Richardson

Sir, Your article, "Time to enjoy Harry" (Body and Mind, November 3) highlights a pressing need for a greater availability of children's hospices in the UK, particularly in deprived inner-city areas. This makes it all the more concerning that there is no children's hospice within Greater London.

You quote a figure of one in 5,000 children having life-limiting conditions, but a Department of Health-funded research project here in Newham, undertaken in 1994, suggests that this is a gross underestimate and that the number of children with very severe disabilities is nearer one in 200.

This suggests that in a district such as ours there may be as many as 300 children requiring respite care, a significant proportion of whom have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, including HIV infection. Some of these children do currently receive some help, but there are nevertheless some children whose disabilities are so severe that they cannot benefit from local service provision because these do not offer skilled nursing support.

In the light of this research we are addressing this issue by establishing London's first hospice for children which will not only offer residential respite care of a similar sort to that provided by other children's hospices, but will also take a pioneering approach in providing, in addition, day-care and outreach facilities as part of a comprehensive service. We plan to look after 200 children a year. Construction of the building starts next January.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER RICHARDSON
(Project Director),
Richard House Trust,
St Mark's Church and Community Centre,
Tollgate Road, E6 4YA.
November 3.

Babies' passports

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, I strongly suspect that the Home Office is wrong to believe that Blair Allan, issued with his own passport when only nine days old, thus became "the UK's youngest passport holder" (report, November 6).

For many years before last month's new regulations making it compulsory for children under 16 to have their own passports if they are not listed on those of their parents, there has been a large section of travellers for whom this is also mandatory — the children of British fathers with non-British mothers. Since nationality is normally inherited from the father, but a small baby usually travels with its mother, a separate passport is essential.

The birth of my own son, almost 35 years ago in Stockholm while I was in the USA, was registered at the British Embassy there when I came to bring him and my German wife back to the UK. I think he was ten days old when the passport was issued, so he cannot challenge young Blair Allan for the title bestowed upon him by the Home Office but there must be many who can.

Unlike Master Allan's new "Euro-style" passport, my son's contained a short description of the holder which included colour of hair and of eyes as well as the height — which I gave as 18 inches. Whilst he may not be able to claim that he was the youngest UK passport holder, perhaps he was the shortest.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay TQ2 6TF.
November 7.

From Mrs Jane Palmer

Sir, My own children (now 19 and 16) also had their own passports at a few weeks' old. The really tricky part of the application form was persuading a "responsible person" to endorse the back of the baby's photo confirming, as required, that the applicant had been personally known to him for at least two years.

Yours faithfully,
JANE PALMER,
77 Home Farm Lane,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP33 2QL.
November 6.

End to persecution?

From Mr Arthur Oppenheimer

Sir, On the anniversary of *Kristallnacht* it was encouraging to note the comment by the former Chief Rabbi that Jewish communities worldwide are now free from persecution for the first time in more than 2,000 years (report, November 10).

However, I hope that this is not a historically premature comment. It might constructively have been qualified by the caveat that persecution against Jews remains a threat until all forms of racial oppression directed towards any ethnic group have been eradicated.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR OPPENHEIMER,
27 Hove Park Villas,
Hove, Sussex BN3 6HH.

Tribute to victims

From Mr David Burford

Sir, The family of Derek Bentley indicate that they intend to use the proceeds of any government compensation to fund a university law scholarship, possibly at Cambridge (report, later editions, November 11).

This would be a fine memorial to him, and perhaps the Bentley family would also consider associating the name of Sidney Miles, the murdered police constable, with this tribute since he was also a victim in this tragic case.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURFORD,
Kentmere, 9 Francis Road,
Hildenborough, Kent TN11 9JY.
david.burford@mail.which.net
November 12.

The future for the Prince of Wales

From Miss Sierra Hutton-Wilson

Sir, It would appear that the alleged stand-off between Prince Charles and his parents (report, November 9) derives more from differences of generation and disposition than from matters royal or constitutional, and must sound very familiar to many of their contemporaries.

Those who can effortlessly intuit the subtleties of horseflesh are frequently confounded by the arcane sensibilities of the artistic.

In fact, it appears that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have failed to grasp that they have produced a perfect successor to the throne, who has emerged as a man of his time, a blend of tradition and vision and an inspiration for the generation in whose era he will become King.

Far from being unsafe in Prince Charles's hands, the monarchy is, ironically, in greater jeopardy from the intransigence of his parents.

Yours faithfully,
SIERRA HUTTON-WILSON,
Priory Cottage,
Church View,
Evercreech, Somerset BA4 6HX.
November 9.

From Mr Alfred Finer

Sir, Judging by the letters which you publish it is assumed by your correspondents (November 11) that Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles wish to be married.

Could it not be beyond reasonable doubt that they may both be wishing to maintain their independence, free of the restrictions which the married state imposes?

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED FINER,
15 Regency House,
London N3 3JZ.
November 11.

From Mrs Frances Judd

Sir, Just how many parties, banquets, or concerts does a 50-year-old need? Is this really a *people's* prince?

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES JUDD
(Age 53; one party),
21 Fishery Road,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire HP1 1NB.
November 13.

The missing angel

From Mr David Gould

Sir, Bearing in mind that most paintings have been cleaned on many earlier occasions, the modern trend of stripping away restoration and repaint from Old Masters should not be undertaken without careful thought. It is impossible, in any case, to return the picture to its original condition.

Nowadays aesthetics seem to take second place to scientific considerations. It is not difficult to remove overpaint to reveal the angel's head right in the middle of *The Adoration of the Shepherds* by Signorelli at the National Gallery (report and photographs, November 5). But this was, in my view, unfortunate, for the composition was much improved when the head was covered over. A discerning eye probably brought this about long before the picture came to the gallery in 1882.

The head is in an excellent and bright condition and it is undamaged: is it possible, therefore, that the obliteration may have been done in the first instance by the artist?

Yours truly,
DAVID GOULD,
High Croft,
South Woodchester,
Gloucestershire GL5 5EP.
November 9.

From Mr Stephen Rosenberg

Sir, In Jewish mythology the number four stands for stability but carries unwelcome overtones of duality, while the number three has better spiritual roots. Three angels appear to Abraham (Genesis xviii, 2) and all angels (according to Isaiah vi, 2) had twice three wings. In another faith also, three Magi play a pivotal role.

Is it not likely therefore that the restorer of Signorelli's *The Adoration of the Shepherds* took exception to the four angels and reduced them to three in line with his expectations. He also demonstrated by this that, for poor Signorelli, the number four was indeed unlucky.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROSENBERG,
14 Nottingham Place, W1M 3FA.
November 5.

Feminine angels

From Mr H. H. Huxley

Sir, The new Christmas stamps, featuring angels, have been designed by a female curate formerly employed by Saatchi & Saatchi (report and photograph, November 3). All the angels pictured are indubitably feminine.

As every angel in the Greek New Testament is masculine, I should love to know how and when they changed sex.

Yours sincerely,
H. H. HUXLEY,
12 Derwent Close,
Cambridge CB1 8DZ.
November 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Baroness Amos (Baroness in Waiting) called upon the Governor- General of Barbados and Lady Husbands at the Royal Gardens Hotel, Kensington High Street, London, this morning and, on behalf of The Queen, welcomed Their Excellencies on their Arrival in this Country.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 14: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince of Wales.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Duke of York this morning visited Blenheim, New Zealand, and, having walked through Seymour Square, planted a commemorative tree.

His Royal Highness afterwards embarked in MV Sounds Exciting at Picton waterfront and travelled to Anakiwa.

The Duke of York, Trustee, Outward Bound Trust, visited Cobham Outward Bound School, Anakiwa.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception at Government House, Wellington, given by the Governor-General.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Prince Edward, chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning attended International Council seminars at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema, Malta.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Graham Archer), this afternoon visited the Delicata Winery, Marsa.

The Prince Edward afterwards attended a Lunch for the Award's World Fellowship at Villa Tarxien.

His Royal Highness subsequently toured the Park of Friendship, Marsascala, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the gift of swimming pool equipment by the British High Commission and attended an open forum for young people and leaders involved in The President Award.

The Prince Edward later watched the final of a five-a-side football competition at the Tique Football Ground, Sliema.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and Dinner for the President of Malta and International Council delegates at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Duke of York attended Morning Service in Wellington Cathedral, New Zealand.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner at Government House given by the Governor-General and the Prime Minister.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Prince Edward, Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning chaired a meeting of the International Council at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema, Malta.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Lunch at the British High Commissioner's Residence.

The Prince Edward later arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Malta.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

Nature notes

THE first winter duck are arriving on lakes and around the coast. Goldeneyes from Finland and Russia especially like to feed where sewers discharge into the sea, but they also come inland. The drakes have bottle-green heads with a distinctive white cheek-spot, while the females have chestnut heads. Both are dumpy birds and indefatigable divers.

The goldeneye duck

Common gulls, which are actually much less common than black-headed gulls, are spreading through Britain for the winter: they are like small herring gulls with grey-green legs. Black-headed gulls can always be recognised by the white leading edge to their wings.

Flocks of greenfinches are hunting around the countryside for charlock seeds, rosehips and rotting blackberries. When these run out they will come to bird tables.

Some elder trees are still quite green and will remain so for most of the winter. There are brilliant yellow leaves on the hazels, sycamores and birches, especially on the young trees.

On wild cherry trees, many leaves are deep red. On spindle trees in the hedges, there are fruits that look like four-petalled pink flowers: when they split open, they reveal seeds in orange jackets.

DJM

Royal Tank Regiment

Major General R.W.M. McAfee, Colonel Commandant Royal Tank Regiment, presided at the Annual Officers' Dinner of the Royal Tank Regiment held on Friday at the RAC Officers' Mess, Bovington, Dorset, to mark the eighty first anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. Brigadier J.H.T. Short, OBE, ADC, Director Royal Armoured Corps, was the guest of honour. Lieutenant Colonel J.G.Y. Radcliffe, TD, Commanding Officer Dorset Yeomanry and Captain Rolet, 501/503 Regiment RCC, were among the guests.

MARTIN BEDDALL

A yeoman warder will take visitors to the Tower of London room where Sir Thomas, below, was held before execution

Thomas More's death cell will open to public

By Mark Henderson

THE cell in the Tower of London where Sir Thomas More spent the months before he was beheaded for treason is to be opened to the public for the first time, to mark the millennium.

The cramped room, which was More's home between his arrest in April 1534 and his trial and execution on Tower Hill the following July, has long been part of the Governor of the Tower's official residence and closed to all but scholars and VIPs. But in 2000, visitors will be escorted in groups of 15 to 20 by a yeoman warder to see the cell, under plans being discussed by the Tower authorities.

The cell will be the centrepiece of a "Thomas More trail" being planned for London as part of the String of Pearls millennium festival, which links landmarks along the Thames. Tourists will be able to follow the life of England's most famous Roman Catholic martyr across London, from his birth in Milk Street in the City to his death on the scaffold on Tower Hill.

Lambeth Palace, where More was a pageboy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Morton, is throwing its doors open to the public for the first time since the 1951 Festival of Britain as part of the String of Pearls, and More will be featured in its millennium exhibition.

Visitors will see the crypt of the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower, where his body — though not his head — is buried. More's head was acquired by Margaret Roper and is buried in a church in Canterbury.

Canon Colin Fletcher, domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who proposed the More trail, said that the cell was "a wonderfully evocative place and very moving... You can feel the walls coming in on you and it is a lonely place."

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant-Colonel M.H. Annett and Miss H.F. Anelay
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mrs Frances Annett, of Hamilton, Australia, and Helen, elder daughter of Mr Peter Anelay, of York.

Mr H.T.B. Baxendale and Miss K.K. Czwarno
The engagement is announced between Harry, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Baxendale, of Aldingbourne, West Sussex, and Kasia, daughter of late Mr Marek Czwarno, and of Mrs Maria Jakubowska, of Poland.

Mr N.M. Coghill and Miss S.N. Hale
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs V.D.L. Coghill, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.J.A. Hale, of Little Neston, Cheshire.

Mr T.J. Douglas-Home and Jonkvrouwe F.A. Beelaerts van Blokland
The engagement is announced between Tara, elder son of the late Mr Charles Douglas-Home and Mrs Rodney Leach, of Quenington, Gloucestershire, and Francine, younger daughter of Jonkheer and Madame Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, of The Hague.

Mr L.K. Flannery and Miss V.A. Henley
The engagement is announced between Louis, son of the late Mr Noel Flannery and of Mrs Evelyn Shine, of Beckenham, Kent, and Virginia, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Henley, of Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire.

Mr W.J.E. Shaw and Miss S.J. Haynes
The engagement is announced between Will, youngest son of Sir Brian and Lady Shaw, of Biddestone, Wiltshire, and Samantha, younger daughter of Mr Stephen Haynes, of Withington, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Valerie Haynes, of Pitchcombe, Gloucestershire.

Mr H.S. Strover and Miss C.A.C. Green
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr John Strover, of Yetminster, Dorset, and Mrs Alice Campbell, of Bredfield, Suffolk, and Caroline daughter of the late Mr William Green and of Mrs Green, of Badingham, Suffolk.

Mr G.W. Moir and Miss S.M. Mackay
The engagement is announced between Graeme, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ian Muir, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hamish Mackay, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr O.T. Peel and Miss J.S. Widen
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Peel, of Norton-on-Tees, Stockton, and Johanna, only daughter of Rev and Mrs Bertil Widen, of Alvesta, Sweden.

Marriages

Mr B. Basham and Miss L. Goodson
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 7, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, between Mr Brian Basham, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Arthur Basham, and Miss Lynne Goodson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Goodson. Canon John Ovenden officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Kate Basham and Miss Victoria Basham. Mr Michael Vernon-Powell was best man.
A reception was held at One Whitehall Place.

Mr L. Gillam and Miss K. Hill
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 14, at St James's Church, Piccadilly, of Mr Luke Gillam, son of Sir Patrick and Lady Gillam, of Highgate Village, London, to Miss Katharine Hill, daughter of Mrs Elizabeth Hill, of Highgate, London. The Rev Mary Robins officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, was attended by Becky Hughes, Polly Markandya, Michelle Tramp and Miss Genevieve Tramp. Mr David Glover was best man.
A reception was held at Spencer House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A.J.N. Tansley and Miss B. Curran
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 7, at The University Church, Dublin, of Mr James Tansley, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tony Tansley, of Sevenoaks, Kent, to Miss Blaithin Curran, daughter of Mrs Maire Curran, and of the late Mr Michael Curran, of Terenure, Dublin.
The bride and bridegroom will live in Muscat.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, will chair a meeting and hold a luncheon for the trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association at Buckingham Palace at 12.45; and as Senior Fellow will attend the Royal Academy of Engineering New Fellows' dinner at Drapers' Hall at 7.20.
The Prince of Wales, president, the Royal Shakespeare Company, will chair the annual governors meeting at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, at 3.00.
The Duke of Kent will visit Vanners Silk Weavers, Gregory Mills, Sudbury, Suffolk, at 11.30; and will visit Shawlands Housing Estate, Great Cornard, at 1.45.
Princess Alexandra will participate in Motability's 21st anniversary celebrations by handing over the keys of Motability's one millionth vehicle at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace at 11.45.

Birthdays today

Mr Frank Bruno, boxer, 37; Sir Alan Budd, economist, 61; Mr Willie Carson, former jockey, 56; Lord Fairhaven, 62; Mrs Zina Garrison-Jackson, tennis player, 35; Viscount Goschen, 33; Sir John Hanson, former Director-General, British Council, 60; Professor Malcolm Jeeves, President, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 72; Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, 65; the Duke of Northumberland, 42; Professor W.G Overend, former Master, Birkbeck College, 77; Sir Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to The Queen, 49; Sir Robert Peliza, former Chief Minister, Gibraltar, 78; Mr Griff Rhys Jones, actor, writer, director and producer, 45; Mr Paul Scholes, footballer, 24; Sir Giles Shaw, former MP, 67; Mr John G. Stenhouse, former chairman, Stenhouse Holdings, 90; Canon H.J. Stuart, former chaplain-in-chief, RAF, 72; Sir Edward Tomkins, former diplomat, 83; Mr David Wilson-Johnson, baritone, 48; Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 63; Professor Michael Zander, Professor of Law, LSE, 66.

University news

Leicester
Professor Robert Burgess, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Warwick University, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Leicester University from October 1, 1999, in succession to Dr Kenneth Edwards who will be retiring.

Oxford
All Souls College
Andrew Neil Reston (Balliol) has been elected to a Fellowship by Examination at All Souls College with immediate effect.

Luncheon

ABC Club
The annual luncheon of the ABC Club was held on Friday at Watermen's Hall. Mr M. Hinton presided. Mr R. Charvet, Mr A. Hart, Mr R. Hedderwick, Mr C. Rawson, Mr P. Theobold, Mr B. Toye and Mr N. Young were among those present.

Dinners

Association of Lancastrians in London
Lord Hacking, President of the Association of Lancastrians in London, accompanied by Lady Hacking, presided at the annual dinner and dance held on Saturday at the Stakis Hotel, Blackpool.

Savoy Gastronomes
Mr Rupert Elliott, President of the Savoy Gastronomes, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the Travellers Club.

Manchester Consular Association
The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr Tony Lloyd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and the Ambassador of China attended the annual dinner of the Manchester Consular Association held on Friday at the Victoria and Albert Hotel, Manchester. Consul General Wang Zhidong (China), president, received the guests.

Durham University
Dr Jack Cunningham, MP, (Bede) was the host at a reunion dinner of the Durham University Senior Men and Women 1962-63 held on Friday in the House of Commons. Mr Michael Billingham (University) presided. Mrs Sylvia Mills (St Mary's) also spoke.

The Chambers of Carl Teper
The annual dinner of the Chambers of Carl Teper was held last Friday evening at The Reform Club. Mr Marios Papadopoulos gave a piano Recital. Mr Malcolm Weisman, OBE, welcomed the guests. Mr Carl Teper proposed the toast to them and Judge Timothy Lawrence and Judge Peter Copley replied on their behalf.

The guests included:
The Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, Lord and Lady Butterworth, The Solicitor General, Judge Hubert Dunn, QC, His Honour Esyr Lewis, QC, Judge Jeremy Connor, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Goldstein, Judge Fordham, Judge Sanders, Judge Watts, His Honour Anura Coorey, His Honour Evelyn F Monier-Williams, Mrs T Jane Mason, Professor Casson, Mrs Hazel Rose, Mrs Jacqueline Comyns, Miss Daphne Wickham and Mr Andrew Harman.

Cordwainers' Company
Brigadier David Biggart, and Mr David Pertwee, Master of the Curriers' Company, were the guests of honour at a dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held on Friday at the Law Society. Mr John Church, Master, presided. Past Warden, Mr Oliver Chamberlain, also spoke. During the dinner the Master presented annual awards for the best trained soldier and best recruit to the Officer Commanding, C (City of London Fusiliers) Company, The London Regiment.

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Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. Go and learn what this text means, 'I require mercy not sacrifice'.' Matthew 9 : 12,13

BIRTHS

CAMERON – On November 10th 1998, to Woolley (née Carson) and Angus, a daughter, Hannah Louise.

CRAMOYSAN - On October 28th to Sarah (née Mansfield) and Steve, twins, Hugo James and Zoe Louise. Sincere thanks to Oxford IVF Unit who made this wonderful event possible

DEAN – On October 28th 1998, at St. Helier Hospital, Surrey, to Margaret (née Lawrie) and Christopher, a daughter, Flora Katherine Margaret, and a son, Alasdair Drummond.

FIENNES – On November 10th 1998, to Caroline (née Newton-Davies) and James, a daughter, Georgina Lucy.

LANGSTON – On Monday November 9th 1998 to Jane and Paul, a wonderful son, Samuel Paul, a brother for Rosa.

LAWRIE - See Dean.

MOOREY - On October 14th 1998, to Nicola (née Hancock) and Adrian, a son, William Michael George, a brother for Olivia.

WALEY - On November 10th 1998, to Laura and Simon, a son, Rupert Francis, a brother for Joshua and Arthur.

DEATHS

BALY - Monica E. PhD, F.R.C.N. of Bath, writer and nurse historian died November 12th 1998. Cremation private followed by Thanksgiving Service at Bath Abbey at 2.30pm Friday November 20th.

BURNETT - MaPvine, aged 88, suddenly but peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital on 10th November. Wife of the late Cmdr Alan Burnett OBE. Dearly loved mother of Michele and Peter and grandmother of Sophie Marisa and Patrick. Private funeral on 16th November. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Asthma Concern U.K., Suite 2, Excelsior House, 3/5 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 4HP.

BURR - Helen Petronilla on 13th November aged 88 at the Old Vicarage, Moulsford, widow of Max de Wharton Burr, the former Headmaster of Belmont School, Hassocks, and mother of Peter. Funeral Service at the Parish Church, Streatley-on-Thames on Saturday 21st November at 10.30am. No flowers please, but donations may be made to the Friends of the Elderly, 42 Ebury Street, London SW1W 0LZ.

CLEMENT - Frances Doreen née Sterry died 4th November 1998.

COWARD - John Osborne, passed away suddenly in Salisbury on 10th November, 1998. He will be sadly missed. Funeral Service at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 20th November, 1998 at 2.20pm p.m. All enquiries c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts., SP1 1HL. 01722 413136.

DORMAN - Stephen Richard Chudleigh, peacefully after a short illness at Looe Cornwall. A Cremation Service on November 17th in Cornwall will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service in Northamptonshire. Enquiries to Ugalde and Son. 01579 343168.

HAY - Penelope Ann (Penny) died peacefully in hospital on November 12th. Dearest sister of Roderick, devoted aunt and teacher at Beaudesert Park School for many years. Funeral at 2.30pm November 20th at Holy Trinity Church, Amberley, Glos. followed by private cremation. No flowers but donations, if desired, to Central America Hurricane Appeal (details Philip Ford and Sons 01453 763593).

JONES - On 11th November, suddenly and peacefully at home in Tonbridge, Reginald Fielding aged 88, the dear husband of the late Mabel and beloved father of Marion and the late Graham. Enquiries to E.R. Hickmott & Son, Tunbridge Wells. Tel: 01892 522462.

KNOX - On November 13th 1998, Tim, beloved husband of Diana and father of Belinda and Jo. Private family funeral.

OXENFORD – On November 13th suddenly at his home in Canada, Derek Eugene, dear brother of Daphne, uncle of Sophie and Kate.

PEREGRINE - Gwilym, passed peacefully away on November 12th, 1998 after a long illness bravely bourne. Beloved husband of Elly, father of Carol and Jocelyn, father-in-law of Jean-Jacques, much loved and devoted grandpapa of Anouk, Manon and Jim. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Enquiries to H C Grimstead Ltd. Tel: 01494 434393.

ROSS - David Gowers Ross MC. On 11th November 1998 after a brave fight against cancer aged 79 years. Loved and missed by Nena, Tomm, Titia and many friends and remembered for his love of animals. Funeral Putney Vale Crematorium 10.30 am Wednesday 18th November. No flowers, donations if wished to RSPCA or RSPB. Enquiries to J H Kenyon Funeral Directors. Tel: 0171 937 0757.

SCRASE - Minnie. Peacefully at Summerlands Lodge on the 11th November 1998. Beloved wife of Charles and much loved grandmother of Pippa, Jamie and Alanna. Service at Thanet Crematorium, Thursday, 19th November at 11.20am. Minnie will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

SHIFTER - (Mr) taken unexpectedly and tragically on 7th November. The world was a better place for your presence. Be at peace. Granpa and Granma.

SWANWICK – Frances on 12th November 1998, peacefully at home at Crowthorne dearly loved wife of George Swanwick (Wing Commander RAF, retd.) and mother of Michael. Requiem Mass at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne at 11.30am, Wednesday 16th November followed by cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the RAF Benevolent Fund, Great Portland Street, London.

TAITT – Frances Barbara (née May) on November 12th, peacefully at Flowerdown Nursing Home. Much loved wife of Hugh and sister of the late Ruth. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Chapel, Chesil House, 6 Chesil Street, Winchester on Thursday 19th November at 3:00pm. No flowers, but donations, if wished, to a charity of your own choice. Enquiries to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester (01962) 844044.

VALENTINE – John Frederick peacefully on Friday 13th November 1998 in the Macmillan Unit of Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst. Much loved husband of Janet and father of Julia and Andrew. Former Chairman of Fison's Horticulture, Chairman of Fairmead Group, Group Managing Director of Southern Water and Chairman of Horticultural Research Institute. Cremation 10.00am on Wednesday 18th November at Worthing Crematorium. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief, c/o Freeman Brothers, 9 North Parade, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2BP.

WILLIAMS - Suddenly on November 8th at Morriston Hospital, Alfreds, of Derwen Fawr, Swansea. Dearly beloved wife of Maldwyn, sadly missed by the family and many friends. Funeral Service at Clyne Chapel, Blackpill, Swansea, Wednesday November 18th at 11.30am, thence to Oystermouth Cemetery, 12.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers if so desired, to the Mothers Union. Clyne Chapel Branch, c/o St James Funeral Home, 31 St James Gardens, Uplands Swansea. SA1 6DT.

WOODBINE PARISH - Sir David, in his 88th year, very peacefully on 12th November 1998. Devoted husband of the late Mona and much loved father of Vanessa and Miranda and proud grampa of Jonathan and Fiona. Small Funeral in Sussex. Thanksgiving Service to celebrate his life will be held later. No flowers please, but donations to any Charity of your choice.

WORSLEY - On 14th November, Mary Worsley, beloved wife of Fam and mother of Jock, Richard and Daniel.

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KITES LIMITED (T/A THE MILLS DESIGN STUDIO)
MARLOW DESIGN CENTRE LTD
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I, Paul John Clark, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Clark and Newman, The Buckman Building, 43 Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1HE, was appointed Liquidator of the above named companies on 4th November 1998. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me. No further public advertisement or invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated this 9th day of November 1998
P J Clark
Liquidator

BENEFICIAL ARTS U.K. LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
(a) By a Special Resolution of the shareholders of the above-named Company approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders held on 9 November 1998, the payment out of capital of £250,000 for the purpose of the Company acquiring 237,415 ordinary shares of 10 pence each and 12,585 non-voting shares of 10 pence each from the registered shareholders was authorised.
(b) The amount of the permissible capital repayment as defined by Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £250,000.
(c) The statutory declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company situated at 29/30 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6LQ.
(d) Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of five weeks immediately following 9 November 1998 (being the date of the above mentioned special resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

NOTICE OF 398 MEETING OF CREDITORS
C J DAUNCEY LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
Principal Trading Address: 81 St George's Road, Brighton, BN2 1EF
Company Number: 1958657
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The George Hotel, High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1BS on 26 November 1998 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
J A D SMITH of Deloitte & Touche, of PO box 810, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR will provide creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Creditors requiring this information should contact in the first instance Paul Bailey on 0171 303 4302.
Dated: 11 November 1998
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
C J Dauncey
Director

Notice of Meetings to Administration Proceedings
Wendy Pale Limited
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LE on 20 November 1998 at 12.00 noon to consider my proposals under s.23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, no later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting, details in writing of your claims.
Dated this 6th day of November 1998
S.D. Swaden, FCA
Joint Administrator
A copy of my proposals may be obtained from the above address.

The Insolvency Act
1986 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED
ISOVEL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
ISOVEL CONTRACTS LIMITED
(All in Administration)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Meetings of Creditors in the above matters will be held at The Clifton Ford Hotel, Welbeck Street, London W1, on 30th November 1998 at 10.00 am, 11.00 am and 12.00 noon respectively to consider my proposals under S23 (1) of The Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a Creditors' Committee. A proxy form which should be completed and returned to me by 12 noon on 27th November 1998, together with details of your claim, if you cannot attend the meetings and wish to be represented and vote at the meetings.
S B THOMAS, Joint Administrator, Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kendrick Place, London W1H 3FF.
Dated 11th November 1998

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SPENCER Freda Lilian late of 26 Pirgrove Court Park Street Hungerford Berkshire. Date of Death 10.10.1998. All claims to CHARLES LUCAS & MARSHALL 28 HIGH STREET HUNGERFORD BERKSHIRE on or before 20.1.1999.

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QUENTIN CREWE

Quentin Crewe, writer and traveller, died on November 14, his 72nd birthday. He was born on November 14, 1926.

Quentin Crewe will be remembered for his courage in overcoming the debilitating disease of muscular dystrophy to achieve feats that would deter many an able-bodied man. He was the fourth Westerner to cross the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia, and he undertook a 25,000-mile journey across the Sahara lasting two years. He was also a travel writer of distinction, a leading commentator on the "swinging" 1960s, a journalist and a gourmet.

"How odd of Dodds to choose the Crewes" wrote Auberon Waugh, musing on the fact that Quentin Hugh Crewe was born Dodds. He became Crewe by deed poll in 1945 at the time his mother inherited what remained of the estates of her father. Quentin was the grandson of the Marquess of Crewe, who held numerous high offices including Lord President of the Council, Lord Privy Seal, Secretary of State for India, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and Ambassador in Paris.

His mother, Lady Annabel Crewe-Milnes (who died in 1948), had first married the Hon Arthur O'Neill, the heir to an Irish peerage, who had been killed while serving with the Life Guards in 1914, leaving three sons and two daughters (one of whom, Terence O'Neill, became Prime Minister of Northern Ireland). His father, Major Hugh Dodds (later Dodds Crewe), had served with the Northumberland Hussars Yeomanry before joining the Consular Service. At the time of Quentin's birth he was Consul in Tripoli.

Crewe's extraordinary maternal ancestry meant that he was closely related to a wide variety of characters, from the Dukes of Roxburghe and Somerset to Bamber Gascoigne and Sir John Colville. His father's family came from a line of Scottish covenanters and lived in Berkhamsted, and the young Quentin was aware that his mother looked down on them. She was proud of her forebears, even of having some Jewish blood — "as had Jesus Christ". The family lived first in Tripoli but moved in 1928 to Palermo, where his father was Consul until going *en poste* to Nice in 1936. They were resident in France until 1941.

Quentin was sent to school at Eton but was sacked after a year for escaping to London for the day (with the help of a fire door key he had copied). Thereafter he had private tutoring with an impoverished vicar near Henley, before going up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied law and was spare cox for the university crew, before being sent down for pure indolence.

From early in his life it became clear that his health was poor, and gradually he became a victim of muscular dystrophy, which eventually prevented him from walking and confined him to a wheelchair. He could only move one hand with the help of the other. The illness was not mentioned in the family, as it was expected that he would die at 16. But ill-health did not curb his favourite pursuit: travelling the globe. He tried not to think of himself as disabled, though he achieved a great deal for other disabled people and in 1982 won the Snowdon Award for Services to the Disabled.

Crewe's first job was at the London antiquarian bookshop Sotheran's. Then he worked as a statistics clerk in a film factory, and after that in the publicity department of the shipping firm French Lines. In 1952, when his illness made conventional work difficult, he spent a year in Italy reading aloud to the almost blind scholar and Pepys librarian Percy Lubbock.

Returning to England in 1953, he was hired by John Junor to work as a reporter for the *Evening Standard*. The job included a great deal of travel and a certain amount of intrusive journalism, which he found distasteful.

In 1959 he moved to *Queen*, the magazine founded by Jocelyn Stevens, where by accident — initially as a stand-in — he became the restaurant critic, unkindly dubbed "Meals on Wheels". To begin with Crewe knew nothing about food, so he wrote his pieces like theatre reviews, including portraits of the restaurateurs and the clients, and made a point of being scrupulously direct. At a time when the style of restaurants was evolving, his column had considerable influence, but he later resigned on principle when *Queen* did a feature on South Africa. His political beliefs were strongly held.

Quentin Crewe in the early 1980s: undaunted by muscular dystrophy

Crewe then took on the role of film critic for the *Daily Mail*, doubling as "Charles Greville", its gossip columnist. He eschewed stories about the Royal Family, divorce, adultery, family rows, pregnancies and irrelevant misfortunes. Instead, he wrote positive things about people involved in worthwhile enterprises. Looking back later, he thought the column too earnest, though there were some important interviews, for example with Greville Wynne, who was later unmasked as a British spy. Crewe briefly lost his job for refusing to have a photograph of Princess Alexandra on his page.

From 1964 to 1971 he wrote a wide-ranging column in the *Sunday Mirror*, mixing highly complicated items with more obviously tabloid material. At other times he worked for *Vogue*, and then as a freelance contributor to *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, and *The Spectator*.

In the early 1950s Quentin Crewe came close to marrying Lady Dorothy Macmillan's daughter, Sarah (whose father was Lord Boothby). But the relationship foundered, causing him great sorrow, though he was able to give a touching account of the Macmillan *ménage* and of Sarah in his memoirs. He subsequently married three times.

His first wife, in 1956, was Martha Sharp, an American heiress, by whom he had a son and daughter, but they were quickly divorced. Then, in 1961, he married the writer Angela Huth, with whom he had a son who died after four days, and a daughter (the novelist Candida Crewe). This marriage also ended in divorce, in the late 1960s.

By this time Crewe was one of the informal leaders of his informal generation, and his circle was far-reaching. It included Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, George Melly, Sandie Shaw, Bill Wyman and Keith Richards. Others who gathered at Crewe's flat in Wilton Crescent included Peter Sellers, Arthur Koestler, Kenneth Tynan and Bernard Levin.

In 1970 he married Sue Cavendish (later editor of *House and Garden* magazine), with whom he had a further son and daughter. They divorced in 1983.

Travel continued to be a great joy to him. In 1966 he and Jeremy Fry set off to journey across the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia, inspired by the writings of Wilfred Thesiger and the possibility of savouring the freedom of the nomad. The desert proved vibrant and stimulating, but at one point frightening, as Crewe wrote when he realised they were lost and might never be found: "It is a dreadful moment when you think you are going to die in this way. It is so much worse than a gun pointing at you or a car rushing at you. These are recognisable dangers, known evils. The desert claims you with a smile. I had never been so afraid." Fortunately they survived, though later a guide went mad, slitting his throat in four places, and had to be tied up. Crewe tended to his wounds.

Over a period of two years in the early 1980s, he and some friends travelled the Sahara from Tunisia to Mauritania, and thence to Khartoum, Cairo and Siwa. On the trip his wheelchair went over a landmine in Mauritania. This incident he described as going up "with the happy ease of a shuttlecock" and coming down, spraining "a dreary ankle". He accepted this as part of the business of travel, and in his later years continued to explore the continents of the world.

The books he published reflected his diverse interests. *A Curse of Blossom* (1960) was his account of a year spent in Japan with his first wife. *Frontiers of Privilege* (1961) was a light-hearted account of the changing attitudes in society over a hundred years, as reflected in *Queen* magazine. *Great Chefs of France* appeared in 1978.

In Search of the Sahara (1983) was an illustrated account of his trip, and was described by Wilfred Thesiger as "an engrossing narrative of travel" and a "characteristically unconscious tribute to the unbelievable courage and resolution of the author". Crewe published four more books during the 1980s, showing the wide spread of his interests: his *Pocket Book of Food* (1980), *The Last Maharaja* (1985), *Touch the Happy Isles* (1987) and *In the Realms of Gold* (1989). His entertaining autobiography, *Well, I Forget the Rest*, was warmly received in 1991.

Towards the end of his life Crewe retired to a hilltop village in the South of France, but Lloyd's losses, a broken back and increasingly frail health forced him to return to England five years ago — though he brought with him a final gastronomic delight, *Foods from France* (1993). His last book, published earlier this year, was *Letters from India*. His illness gradually consumed him, but it failed to break his spirit.

All his children, apart from the son who died as an infant, survive him.

VALERIE HOBSON

Valerie Hobson, actress and wife of the former Conservative MP John Profumo, died on November 13 aged 81. She was born in Larne, Northern Ireland, on April 14, 1917.

TEMPERED by as tough an ordeal as could befall the wife of any public man, Valerie Hobson lived to see the reputation of her husband totally rehabilitated. In the wake of the claimed security scandal of 1963 both Jack Profumo and his well-known actress wife threw themselves into social work — he at Toynbee Hall in London's East End and she on behalf of mentally handicapped children and leprosy relief work abroad. No one meeting them for the first time in the London of the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s — where they remained a most popular couple — could possibly have gathered from their mutually dependent demeanour the nature of the trauma they had been through.

It was in June 1963 that the bottom fell out of their world. On a short holiday in Venice, during the Whitsun parliamentary recess, Profumo confessed to his wife that he had told less than the truth to the House of Commons in denying any "impropriety" in his relationship with Christine Keeler (though he was more concerned at the time to rebut other uglier accusations made against him of having interfered with a criminal trial being held at the Old Bailey). Her instant reaction was that they must go back and face the music — which, through the good offices of their friends John and Nancy Hare (later Lord and Lady Blakenham), who had a secluded farmhouse in Suffolk, they were able to without being incessantly caught in the camera lens.

The disgrace, nevertheless, was real enough: Profumo had to resign his position as Secretary of State for War, his seat in the House of Commons (where he had sat since 1940) and his membership of the Privy Council: his seals were delivered to Buckingham Palace by hand after a fellow Conservative MP had protested that it would demean the Queen to have to meet him. A dozen years later Valerie Hobson proudly accompanied her husband to an investiture there, when the Queen conferred on him the ribbon and badge of a Commander of the British Empire.

Valerie and Jack Profumo were married in 1954, the year of her retirement from the stage and at a time when she was a good deal more famous than he was. Her last part had been opposite Herbert Lom, playing the English governess in the 1953 Drury Lane production of *The King and I*. But she had also had an illustrious career in films — playing particularly memorably, among many other parts, the role of Estella in David Lean's classic version of *Great Expectations* (1946).

Valerie Hobson, photographed in 1948 before her marriage to Profumo

Valerie Babette Louise Hobson was the daughter of a naval officer, and at first she seemed destined for a career as a ballet dancer. She went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art at the age of nine, and studied dancing for six years with one of the leading teachers of the day, Espinosa. But when an attack of scarlet fever caused a premature lengthening of her limbs, she decided to abandon ballet for the theatre, making her first stage appearance at 15 in *Ball at the Savoy* at Drury Lane.

From 1933 she had small parts in films, including R. C. Sherriff's cricket comedy *Badger's Green*, and while still in her teens she was given a contract by Universal Pictures in Hollywood. There she played in several low-budget pictures, most of them horror films, which did little to further her career. Within 18 months she was back in England, and here, despite another Hollywood offer in 1942, she stayed.

The adjective most often used about her screen persona was "ladylike". A classic beauty, with large eyes and long auburn hair, she epitomised the aloof English heroine, at a time when British films were notable for their emotional reticence. On her return to England, her career picked up with a Korda spectacular, *The Drum*, and a comedy, *This Man is News*, the producer of which, Anthony Havelock-Allan, became her first husband in 1939. There was a sequel, *This Man in Paris*, and in the early war years she also played in two popular spy pictures with Conrad Veidt, *The Spy in Black* and *Contraband*.

She was then absent from the screen for some time while she started a family, returning in 1946 with *The Years Between* followed by *Great Expectations*. After *Blanche Fury*, a Victorian melodrama with Stewart Granger, she appeared in the famous Ealing comedy *Kind Hearts and Coronets* as Edith, the rather stuffy wife of one of the eight D'Ascoyne characters played by Alec Guinness. Her later pictures included *The Rocking Horse Winner*, from a short story by D. H. Lawrence, and *The Card*, which was based on the Arnold Bennett novel and again starred Alec Guinness.

In 1953, after a long gap, and the year after her first marriage ended in divorce, she was tempted back to the boards by an exceptional part: that later to be immortalised by Deborah Kerr in the 1956 film version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The King and I*. With no previous experience of musicals Hobson was a surprise choice for the Drury Lane stage role, but her performance and singing won general praise and the show ran for more than a year.

During its run she announced her engagement to John Profumo, a junior minister in the Churchill Government, and said that she intended to retire from acting to become a full-time wife. She and Profumo were married on the last day of 1954 and she never appeared in films or on the stage again. Her last film, released in the summer of 1954, was *Knave of Hearts* with the French actor Gerard Philippe.

She became increasingly well known for her work for charity, her interest in mentally handicapped children being partially explained by the fact that her eldest son was born with Down's syndrome. She is survived by her husband and by the two sons of her first marriage and by the single one of her second, the author David Profumo.

JOHN HOLMES

John Holmes, MBE, former chief agent of the Liberal Party, died on October 17 aged 73. He was born on January 14, 1925.

FOR MORE THAN 20 predominantly lean and always turbulent years before his retirement in 1986, John Holmes played a leading role in the Liberal Party, first as regional secretary for the Home Counties, then as chief agent and deputy head of party headquarters.

A familiar figure at by-elections, he was also involved at one stage in helping to advance the Liberal cause through local government and in restructuring the party, devolving power from Central London to the regions. He made his mark in the Home Counties between 1965 and 1974, impressing party workers with his political astuteness, and then succeeded to the position of chief agent at what looked like a promising moment for the party.

It was the year in which the Liberals, under Jeremy Thorpe, had won more than six million votes in the general election of February 1974, albeit emerging with a mere 14 seats. A great admirer of the charismatic Thorpe, Holmes was shocked and dismayed by the revelations about his hero's relationship with Norman Scott, which led to his forced resignation from the leadership, his defeat at North Devon in May 1979 and the eventual trial at the Old Bailey at which he and three other men were acquitted.

He was almost equally dispirited by such post-Thorpe stratagems as the party's flirtation with Labour under the "Lib-Lab Pact" (because, prophetically, he distrusted Labour's intentions with regard to proportional representation), and later with the SDP. He and Cyril Smith were not alone in thinking that the SDP should have been "strangled at birth".

Paradoxically, his own political affiliations were originally with the old Labour Party. Born in the village of Caverswall, near Stoke-on-Trent, John Wentworth Holmes was the son of a white-collar worker at the local colliery. After leaving Caverswall Church School and working briefly in the Potteries, he went down the pits in 1941, aged 16, at a time when an embattled Britain was desperate for more coal and the men to mine it.

He remained in the industry for ten years, becoming in 1947 a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' North Staffordshire District and of the union's Midland Area Council. This duly helped him in 1951 into the job of Labour Party agent for Rugby.

Growing disillusionment, however, led to his defection to the Liberals in the early 1960s. The Labour Party he cherished had been that of Clement Attlee and Ernest Bevin and he left it in 1963, a departure made easier by the death in January of that year of Hugh Gaitskell, whom he had also much admired.

He now became Liberal agent for Leicester, moving to take over as regional secretary for the Home Counties two years later.

While working as chief national agent, he also deputised for the secretary-general at party headquarters, winning a reputation as a skilful negotiator and organiser, but escaping as often as he could to take charge at the sharp end at by-elections.

Yet once again he grew disenchanted with the politics of pragmatism and power-broking. A neat, dapper man of unwavering principle, he belonged to the age when politicians felt a sense of mission (or seemed to do so).

Accordingly, he retired at 61, without too much regret, to cultivate his garden and indulge his love of cooking. A one-time Labour member of Warwickshire County Council, he briefly sat as a Liberal on Rother District Council in Sussex, winning his seat by nine votes after a recount, only to lose it to the Conservatives four years later.

While he had little time for new Labour, he liked and respected the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, and took great pleasure in the party's gains in last year's general election. "It's rather nice," he remarked to a former colleague, "to have enough MPs for one not to remember all their names."

The marriage to his first wife, Sylvia, was dissolved, after which, in 1969, he married his second wife, Sonia, a former secretary at Liberal Party headquarters. She survives him, along with their four daughters.

University news

Oxford

Trinity College

The Governing Body has made the following elections and awards:

R A Knox Memorial Prizes
Rosemary Gail Akerman, formerly of Latymer School London
Martin William Dusinberre, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge
Daryl John Noyce, formerly of Carisbrooke High School, Isle of Wight

Peter Fisher Prize in Physics
Adam Daniel Capewell, formerly of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College

Bellot Prize in International Law
Sophie Ana Mohamed Harith Kassim, formerly of Raffles Junior College, Singapore *Atsuhi Farrer Memorial Scholarship*
Christopher Insole, formerly of Winchester College

Graduate Scholarships
Christopher Insole, formerly of Winchester College
Antonin Charles Machacek, formerly of High Wycombe Royal Grammar School
Millard Scholarships in Chemistry
Timothy Paul Bates Whitfield, formerly of High Wycombe Royal Grammar School
Malcolm Edward Lang, formerly of *Portlethen Academy*, Aberdeen
Millard Scholarships in Engineering Science
James Alexander Cross, formerly of St Bartholomew's School, Newbury

Alex Tiang Chuan Oug, formerly of Taylor's College, Malaysia

Millard Scholarship in Engineering, Economics and Management
Christina Hoi Yee Luk, formerly of Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong

Millard Scholarship in Engineering and Material
Rachel Angharad Oliver, formerly of Stockport Grammar School

Millard Scholarships in Metallurgy and Science of Materials
Helen Margaret Lane, formerly of *Grange School*, Northwich
Susannah Caroline Speller (nee Wood), formerly of the Perse School for Girls, Cambridge
Russell Goodall, formerly of Caerleon Comprehensive School

Millard Scholarships in Physics
Christopher Golby, formerly of Wath Comprehensive School, *Rotherham*
Stephen Peter Morris, formerly of Notre Dame High School, Norwich

Hillary Scholarship in English
Daniel Thomas Swift, formerly of University College School
Wyatt Rushton Scholarship in History
Catherine Mary Boulton, formerly of the School of St Helen and *St Katharine*, Abingdon

Titley Scholarship in Biochemistry
Nicola Faye Thomson, formerly of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Elstree
Chadwick Scholarship in PPE

Julian Marc Ellacott, formerly of Kelly College

Blakiston Exhibition in Literae Humaniores
Victoria Jayne Baines

Mowat Exhibition in Law
Sarah Catherine Mary Gowen, formerly of Lady Eleanor Holles School

Percival Exhibitions in English
Heather Rebecca Bacon-Shone, formerly of Portland Community College, Oregon
Nicholas Andrew Bartholomew Lake, formerly of the European School Luxembourg
Fiona Berson, formerly of Berkhamsted School for Girls
Saloura Lorraine Richmond, formerly of the *Becket School, Nottingham*

Ford Exhibitions in History
Jonathan Peter James White, formerly of *Westminster School*
Amelia Florence Branczik, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

Ford Exhibition in History and English
Eleanor Mary Pinder, formerly of Portsmouth High School

Millard Exhibition in Metallurgy and *Science of Materials*
Hannah Louise Thompson, formerly of Crossley Heath School, Halifax

Titley Scholarship in Biochemistry
Catherine Anne Heyward, formerly of Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School

Millard Exhibitions in Chemistry
Eric Ho Kong, formerly of Warrington Collegiate Institute
Carlo-Maresca Von-Beckh, formerly of International College, Madrid
Andrew John Williams, formerly of Hall Cross Comprehensive School, Doncaster

Chadwick Exhibitions in Modern Languages
Christopher Richard Fremantle, formerly of Eton College
James Reginald Maltby, formerly of Eton College

Chadwick Exhibition in Classics and Modern Languages
Priya Goyal, formerly of Bradford Girls' Grammar School

Chadwick Exhibition in History and *Modern Languages*
Joanna Katherine Ellis, formerly of Merchant Taylors School for Girls

Millard Exhibition in Physics
Stephen Ben Bee Whitelam

Hennniker Exhibition in Mathematics
Michael Edward Bale

Chadwick Exhibition in PPE
Victoria Jacquelynn Redwood, formerly of Wellington College

Chadwick Exhibition in Economics and Management
Darshak Ashok Shah, formerly of Guildford Royal Grammar School

Outstanding Progress Prize
James Alexander Cross, formerly of St Bartholomew's School, Newbury

ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1929

A. P. Herbert (Sir Alan Herbert), MP, playwright, witty champion of many causes, was here in his element, for he knew the Thames intimately in all her moods

THE WATER-BUS

To the Editor of The Times

Sir, The traffic of London is an increasingly bad dream. The L.C.C. is desperately building or imagining bridges and roads. Mr. J. H. Thomas, with public money and credit facilities behind him, is at his wits' end to find useful work. Mr. Lansbury is admirably exploring the town for better and brighter "lungs". May we once respectfully invite them all to cast their eyes on the River Thames and imagine the water-bus?

The River Thames flows through the heart of London, a neglected highway, a neglected beauty, a neglected "lung", a neglected education, a neglected field of employment, a neglected source of revenue. No man has seen London till he has seen it from the river, as our fathers saw it. But rare is the Londoner who has seen it so. To most of us this unique stretch of water is as unknown as the sewers, and almost as unapproachable. Why? There is no good reason.

If the river were dry land it would be alive with motor-buses; and, given good will, energy, and imagination, it would be served by swift, comfortable, profitable motor-water buses. The Londoner should be able, in any weather, at any time of the year, in any part of riverside London, to enter a public boat and go to any other part, whether for business or pleasure. At present he can go upon his river only for pleasure and that only to a limited extent in the summer months . . .

Let the weary strap-hanger imagine the London water-bus. It (or she) holds 300 passengers, and has every modern convenience. Electric lights, and comfortable "armed" seats on deck and in the saloon; electric stoves in the winter; the deck open or closed in according to the weather; more room than the bus, more air than the train; refreshments, newspapers, etc., for sale on board. No noise or jerks or traffic jams. As for speed, she travels nine miles an hour against the tide — more than any tram or bus can do on the average in Central London. For every journey over two miles the water-bus is the quicker.

This attractive vessel will pick you up after the day's work at Blackfriars, at Westminster, at the Tower, at the Temple, etc., and land you anywhere between Hammersmith (or Kew?) and Woolwich. And then, Sir, on your afternoon off, you will take your family to the nearest pier, and travel easily down to the Tower, to Wapping or Limehouse, or the Surrey Docks. You will see the charming bustle of the Pool of London, the big ships stealing out to sea, the lovely sailing barges beating down, the fussy tugs, the vast cranes and warehouses, Billingsgate, the Custom House, the noble pile of Greenwich Hospital rising from the water. You will have tea or dinner at Greenwich and travel back into the setting sun. At dusk the river becomes an enchanted place, the prosy factories are mysterious and beautiful; the dull trams like fairy coaches float along the Embankment; the lights on the shore, the shadow and sparkle on the water, the fresh bite in the air - here is suddenly a different world, a new London, which the Londoner never sees.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A. P. Herbert

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Clinton in bid to oust Saddam

■ President Clinton vowed last night to intensify efforts to remove President Saddam Hussein from power, after calling off massive airstrikes on Iraq at the last moment.

Mr Clinton, backed by Tony Blair, warned Saddam that American and British forces would remain on alert to attack if he did not match his promised co-operation with United Nations arms inspectors with action ..... **Page 1**

Labour gets tough on union recognition

■ The government is expected to amend its forthcoming employment legislation by making it tougher for unions to achieve automatic recognition in companies. In response to widespread industry concern, Peter Mandelson is poised to introduce safeguards to prevent unions organising snap recruitment campaigns to ensure recognition ..... **Page 1**

Fortune for the taking

In life Helen Lowe was alone. Having lost her love in the First World War, the Scottish spinster turned her attentions to business and ammassed a £7 million fortune. In death, however, she is developing an extended family. A worldwide search has been launched to find heirs to her estate after the pensioner died without making a will ..... **Page 1**

Rabbi attacks Internet

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, launched an attack on the Internet, computer games and personal stereos as tools that contributed to the destruction of family life ..... **Page 4**

Grammar school vote

Grammar schools across Britain will learn this week whether parents will be given powers to turn them comprehensive ..... **Page 5**

Camilla in limelight

With her hair coiffured, diamonds sparkling around her neck and a dazzling smile, Camilla Parker Bowles stepped out of the background at the weekend to host the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party ..... **Page 6**

Newbury bypass

Police are converging on a former battlefield to prepare for the official opening of the most expensive rural bypass ever built in Britain. Sixty-two years after it was mooted, the Newbury bypass will finally open ..... **Page 7**

Bettison speaks out

Norman Bettison, who starts his job as Chief Constable of Merseyside today, has appealed to the families of Hillsborough victims to meet him at any time and any place to resolve the festering row over his appointment ..... **Page 8**

V&A treasures at risk

Staff at the Victoria and Albert Museum have given a warning that millions of objects are being put at risk by plans to privatise security arrangements. It is feared that night patrols at a repository will be scrapped under the move ..... **Page 10**

Zimbabwe farm terror

Anarchy is spreading across the highly developed farmland east of Harare as guerrilla war veterans lead hundreds of squatters on to white-owned land that they claim is theirs ..... **Page 12**

Indonesia in turmoil

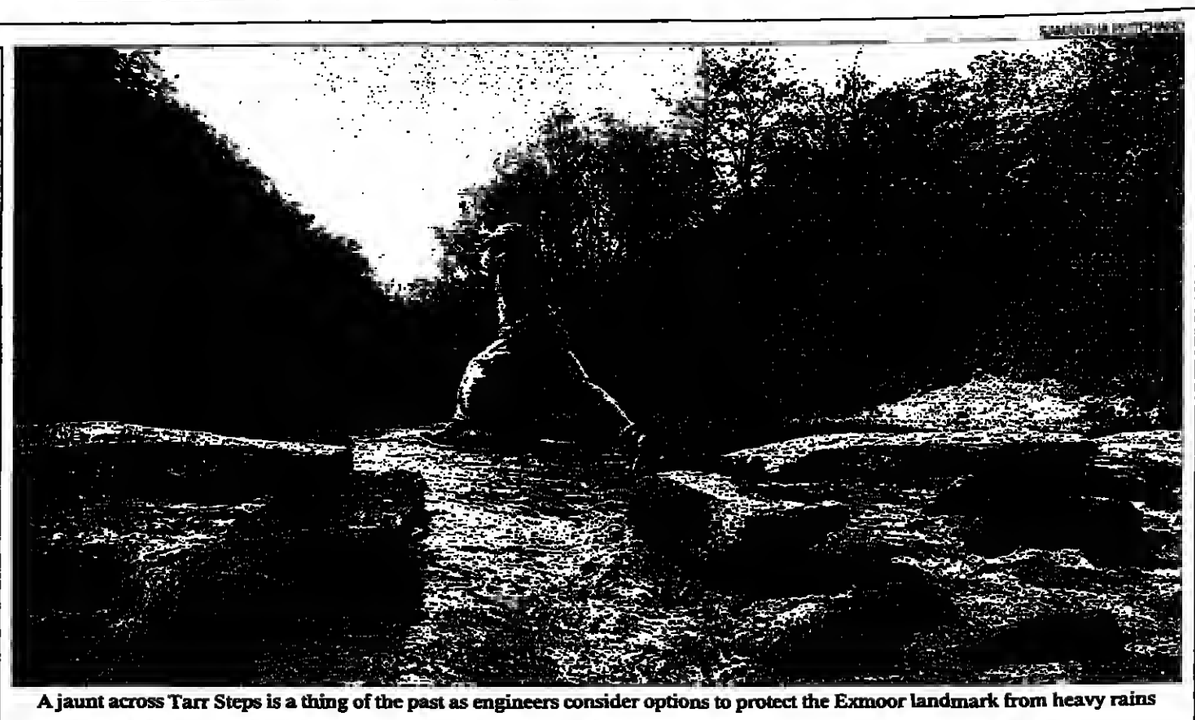
Battle lines hardened yesterday between the Indonesian Government and reformers as the dead were buried after violent clashes between students and riot police ..... **Page 13**

Death row denounced

Twenty-seven men and two women, once destined to take their final steps on death row, have denounced the states that tried to kill them. They are among 75 Americans who have been freed since capital punishment was reinstated ..... **Page 16**

Scotty and Virgil hand over the reins

■ Gerry Anderson, who produced *Thunderbirds* and *Fireball XL5*, is preparing to recruit a new generation of young admirers who have never heard of Troy Tempest or Lady Penelope. The legendary producer, now 69, is the driving force behind *Lavender Castle*, which aims to explore uncharted ground in the use of puppetry on television ..... **Page 11**



A jaunt across Tarr Steps is a thing of the past as engineers consider options to protect the Exmoor landmark from heavy rains

BUSINESS

Blair speech: The Prime Minister will break with tradition in his Guildhall speech tonight when he is expected to defend Labour's economic policy in the face of mounting job losses ..... **Page 52**

Carpets deal: Lord Harris of Peckham is set to take back control of Carpetland, 10 years after selling it ..... **Page 52**

Insurance safeguard: The Government is preparing to relax solvency rules for insurance companies to prevent many of them collapsing should the FTSE 100 plunge below 4,500 ..... **Page 52**

Drugs merger: Germany's Hoechst and Rhone-Poulenc, of France, are planning a £26 billion merger, which could be announced later this week ..... **Page 52**

FEATURES

Russian challenge: Lina E is representative of a new generation of sassy and financially sophisticated Russians in their twenties who are learning how to beat the system. Lina spirited thousands of pounds out of the country under the noses of the authorities ..... **Page 17**

Tough stuff: "I bet £100 I'll be in trouble before the year is out." A young offender in Portsmouth doubts that a caring approach to people such as he has much effect ..... **Page 17**

From red to blue: Katharine Hamnett tells Lisa Armstrong why she has joined the Conservative Party ..... **Page 19**

Eco chic: New fabrics have made environmentally friendly clothes sophisticated ..... **Page 18**

ARTS

His way: In the past decade the singer Tony Bennett has enjoyed an amazing professional rebirth. Now he has an autobiography and a new album ..... **Page 20**

Now booking: Dance Umbrella celebrates its 20th birthday with a work for 54 dancers custom-made by Stephan Koplowitz to be performed inside the new British Library ..... **Page 20**

Sibling creativity: The Donmar Warehouse production of Stephen Sondheim's musical *Into the Woods*, which opens tonight, is a family affair ..... **Page 21**

Peerless pairs: London enjoys two double acts: the Philharmonia under Christoph Dohnanyi, and Barbara Bonney with Vladimir Ashkenazy ..... **Page 21**

SPORT

Football: Aston Villa have emerged as surprise leaders of the FA Carling Premiership, but do they have the quality to win the championship? ..... **Page 27**

Tennis: Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow yesterday and, in the process, denied Greg Rusedski the final place in the ATP World Championship in Hanover ..... **Page 28**

Cricket: Graeme Hick has been flown out as cover for Michael Atherton after the former England captain suffered a recurrence of his back injury just a few days before the first Test against Australia ..... **Page 29**

FA Cup: Leigh RMI achieved the best result of the non-league sides in first round matches, drawing 1-1 with Fulham ..... **Page 33**

THE PAPERS

At first glance the arrest in Rome of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish revolutionary leader, has little in common with the recent arrest in London of General Pinochet of Chile. Ocalan leads a people — the Kurds — who consider themselves oppressed by another people, the Turks. Pinochet was a dictator who oppressed his own people. But Italy's dilemma is the same as Britain's: what criteria of justice do we apply to alleged international criminals, and what machinery do we have for dealing with them?

Corriere Della Sera, Milan

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ENTERPRISE**
The insurance consultant they call the Queen of the Motorbikes

■ **LAW**
A charm offensive or skilled spin-doctoring: why is the Lord Chancellor a new man?

RADIO & TV

Preview: New series of the popular British comedy has Tracy's video becoming possessed, forcing a shift into Dorien's place. *Birds of a Feather* (BBC1, 8.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on the old British sneer "better glum than dumb" ..... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

The last word

Iraq has had its clearest warning since 1990. It now knows what to expect. This was diplomacy's last throw ..... **Page 23**

Labour's blindspot

Britain's grammar schools should be defended as bastions of educational excellence. Instead they are held hostage to ancient Labour prejudices ..... **Page 23**

The Leonid roars

A meteor storm could herald disaster for world communications ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL
The reinvention of Labour will only be achieved by winning the ideological battle, rather than by using procedural devices to outmanoeuvre opponents ..... **Page 22**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
British political life has for centuries been very tolerant of different opinions. That essential spirit of liberalism does not exist in the present government ..... **Page 22**

LAWRENCE FREEDMAN
Saddam left himself without evident diplomatic wriggle room, no means to obscure retreat, no potential confusion over victors and losers, not even the consolation of Kofi Annan paying court again **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Quentin Crewe, writer and traveller; **Valerie Hobson**, actress; **John Holmes**, MBE, former chief agent of the Liberal Party ..... **Page 25**

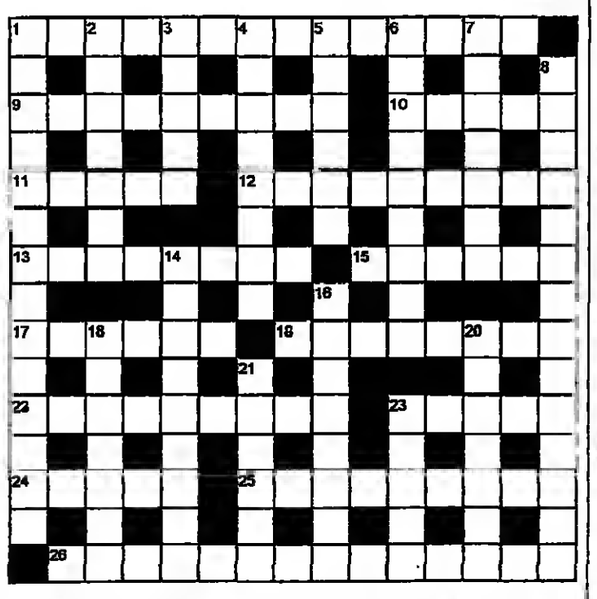
LETTERS

Argentine President's hopes for peace; Livingstone for mayor?; Prince of Wales at 50; Human Rights Act; hospices for children; passports ..... **Page 23**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 11, 12, 17, 23, 39. Bonus: 42
Two people shared Saturday night's National Lottery draw, each winning £3,086,921.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,950



ACROSS

1 Fast asleep, exactly as everyone understands it (4,2,3,5).
9 Enclosed area crew captured, it's said (9).
10 Rotatable joint inserted in thigh ingeniously (5).
11 Hard worker opposed to being in service (5).
12 Agreeing to study game with fellow outside (9).
13 Immoral behaviour regrettably backed by business community (8).
15 Porridge that is something below par (6).
17 Traveller in the Orient appears to be discontented (6).
19 Scholars settled down a long time before it returned (8).
22 It supported men investing in cert, but he went bust (9).
23 Smooth woman with American backing (5).
24 Honour attracting expression of triumph in US city (5).
25 Bold action, blundering into casual retirement (7-2).
26 Senior politician, say, admitted by presbyter's servant (5,9).

DOWN

1 In end of a street, oddly projecting from window (14).
2 Entrance of one of Lydia's suitors, say (7).
3 Riding equipment youngsters initially viewed as shoddy (5).
4 Give cutter an order to do this? (5).
5 Surveying instrument's first lost, but still surviving (6).
6 White rose propagated under different conditions (9).
7 Oil producer's love upset offspring (7).
8 Fail one's colleagues, but prepare col for use (3,3,4,4).
14 Cleans out jumble in diplomat's residence (9).
16 Flower once known upriver (8).
18 Obtain water-container to accommodate churchman (7).
20 Canines may have their fill of it (7).
21 Spirits in glasses (6).
23 Tailor, we hear, steps over fence (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,949 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

AA INFORMATION

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** a cold and crisp day in most parts. After a frosty start, there will be long periods of sunshine, although patchy cloud will bring a few wintry showers to the North Sea coasts of northeast Scotland, eastern England and East Anglia. A few freezing fog patches may linger in western and northern regions also, with temperatures remaining close to freezing all day in some Scottish glens. This evening, most parts will turn very cold and frosty again soon after dark.

☐ **London, SE & Central S England, Channel Isles:** dry with long sunny spells. Frost early and late. Wind light to moderate, NW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **E Anglia, E & NE England:** sunny spells, wintry showers near coast. Frost early and late inland. Wind cold, N. Max 8C (48F).

☐ **Midlands, Channel Isles, SW, NW & Central N England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man:** frosty start, with fog patches. Then fine with long spells of wintry sunshine. Wind light, variable. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** frosty start with local mist or fog patches. Long sunny spells thereafter, but freezing fog patches persisting in some glens. Wind light, variable. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** wintry showers at first, otherwise cold and bright. Wind moderate, N or NE. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cold with long sunny spells. Early frost and fog patches. Risk of sleet in Co. Tyrone later. Wind light, variable or SE. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mist and fog patches slowly clearing. Bright for a time, then rain with sleet over hills spreading from the West. Wind light to moderate, becoming S. Max 6c (43f).

☐ **Outlook:** Mostly fine but cold with sharp overnight frost.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

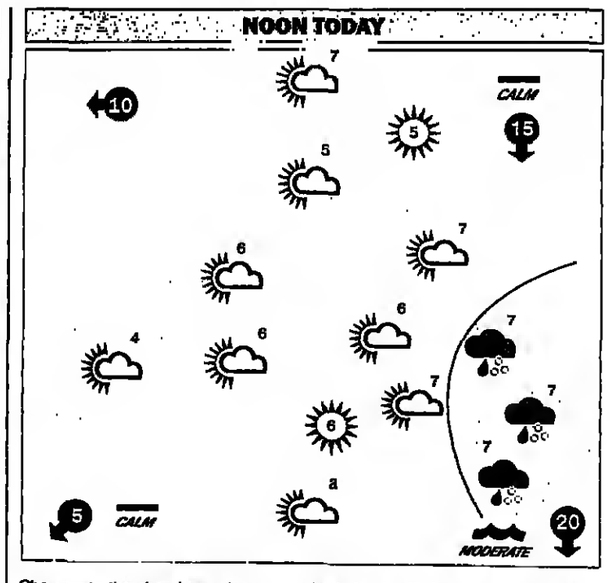
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.1	0.35	5	41	s
Anglesey	3.6	0.06	9	48	sh
Aspatria	3.4	-	6	43	s
Aviemore	3.1	0.08	4	39	sh
Belfast	7.0	0.01	7	45	h
Birmingham	3.2	-	8	46	b
Bognor R	5.5	-	9	48	s
Bournem'th	8.9	0.01	11	50	s
Bristol	4.9	-	11	52	s
Buxton	0.2	0.02	4	39	sh
Cardiff	6.0	-	11	52	s
Clacton	2.1	0.02	8	46	sh
Cleethorpes	0.5	0.02	7	45	s
Colwyn Bay	1.0	0.06	8	46	h
Cromer	0.3	0.11	9	48	sh
Dunbar	*				
Eastbourne	X				
Edinburgh	5.0	0.01	7	45	s
Eskdalemuir	5.4	0.02	5	41	s
Exmouth	8.2	0.01	10	50	s
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	5.9	0.03	9	48	h
Folkestone	4.0	0.01	8	46	b
Glasgow	7.1	0.01	7	45	s
Guernsey	6.9	0.11	12	54	s
Hastings	5.5	-	9	48	s
Hayling I	5.5	0.01	9	48	s
Herne Bay	0.8	0.02	8	46	c
Hove	3.1	-	9	48	b
Hunstanton	-	0.12	7	45	sh
Isle of Man	X				
Isle of Wight	6.0	0.01	9	48	s
Jersey	9.1	0.25	11	52	sh
Kinloss	1.1	0.02	5	41	sh
Leeds	1.8	0.01	7	45	sh
Lerwick	5.1	0.04	4	39	sh
Leuchars	6.1	0.01	7	45	s
Littlehmptn	2.8	-	9	48	s
London	0.6	0.01	8	46	c
Lowestoft	1.7	0.03	8	46	sh
Manchester	1.0	0.01	8	46	h
Margate	-	0.04	8	46	du
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	5.0	-	8	48	s
Newcastle	2.4	0.36	6	43	s
Norwich	1.2	0.13	9	48	sh
Oxford	5.7	0.01	9	40	s
Penzance	8.2	0.06	13	55	s
Poole	6.2	0.01	10	50	s
Prestatyn	3.1	0.02	9	48	h
Ross on Wye	4.3	0.01	10	50	s
Salcombe	X				
Scarbo'n Snd	7.7	0.02	12	54	s
Scarboro'	-	0.43	6	43	d
Shrewsbury	5.2	0.01	8	46	s
Skegness	X				
Southend	3.0	0.02	8	46	s
Southport	X	-	8	46	s
Southsea	X				
Stornoway	4.7	0.04	6	43	s
Swanage	8.0	-	10	50	s
Teignmouth	8.5	0.04	11	52	s
Tenby	8.3	0.17	11	52	s
Tiree	5.6	0.01	8	46	b
Torquay	8.5	0.06	12	54	s
Tynemouth	X				
Weston s Mare	1.0	-	12	54	s
Weymouth	7.9	-	10	50	s

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	c	Chicago	12	54	f	Madrid	14	57	s	S Frisco	12	54	s
Akrotiri	22	72	s	Cologne	4	39	f	Majorca	20	68	s	S Paulo	X		
Alex'dria	26	79	s	Corfu	17	63	r	Malaga	24	75	f	Salzburg	7	45	f
Algiers	23	73	f	C'phagn	4	39	f	Malta	17	63	s	Santiago	26	79	s
Amst'dm	6	43	f	Dublin	7	45	s	Mexico C	21	70	f	Seoul	20	68	f
Athens	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	f	Miami	27	81	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
B Aires	29	85	f	Faro	21	70	f	Milan	8	46	f	St Iholm	0	32	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Florence	7	45	d	Montreal	6	43	s	Strasb'rg	7	45	c
Bangkok	31	88	f	Frankfurt	4	39	f	Moscow	-8	18	s	Sydney	21	70	s
Barbados	29	85	f	Funchal	23	73	f	Munich	3	37	r	Tangier	21	70	f
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	8	46	f	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tel Aviv	23	73	f
Beirut	22	72	f	Gibraltar	22	72	s	N York	14	57	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Belfast	7	45	f	Helsinki	6	43	c	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tokyo	21	70	s
Beijing	11	52	c	Hong K	25	77	c	Naples	15	59	f	Toronto	9	48	f
Belgrade	8	46	f	Innsbruck	6	43	s	Nice	12	54	c	Tunis	19	66	f
Berlin	4	39	r	Istanbul	13	55	f	Oslo	-3	27	sn	Valencia	21	70	s
Bermuda	22	72	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Paris	9	48	r	Vanc'ver	10	50	s
Biarritz	15	59	f	Jo'burg	28	82	f	Perth	X			Venice	9	48	f
Bordeaux	13	55	f	L Angels	19	66	s	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	6	43	s
Brussels	4	39	r	L Palmas	24	75	s	Reykjavik	-4	25	s	Warsaw	-2	28	c
Budapest	5	41	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Rhodes	20	68	f	Wash'ton	14	57	s
Cairo	26	79	s	Locarno	7	45	s	Rio de J	20	68	f	Wel'ngton	15	59	
Cape Tn	22	72	f	Luxembg	4	39	f	Riyadh	29	84	s	Zurich	6	43	r
Ch'church	X			Luxor	4	39	s	Rome	12	54	f				

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



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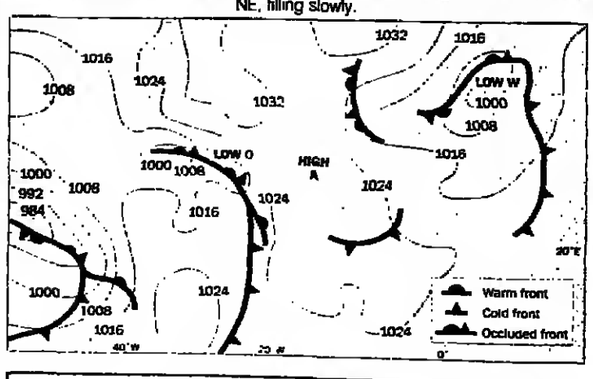

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11.50	4.0	23.59	4.0
Avonmouth	5.19	11.9	17.37	12.3
Belfast	9.21	3.2	21.24	3.4
Cardiff	5.05	11.1	17.23	11.3
Devonport	3.54	5.1	16.06	5.2
Dover	2.15	6.2	21.41	6.1
Dublin	10.03	3.8	22.14	3.9
Falmouth	3.26	4.9	15.37	5.0
Cromarty	11.05	3.3	23.00	3.3
Harwich	0.56	3.7	22.24	3.8
Holyhead	8.43	5.1	20.54	5.2
Hull	4.25	7.0	16.55	7.0
Ilfracombe	4.08	8.2	16.25	8.4
King's Lynn	4.07	6.0	17.02	6.1
Leith	11.43	5.0	13.03	5.1
Liverpool	9.29	8.6	21.45	8.8
London Bridge	-	-	12.12	6.7
Lowestoft	7.31	2.4	20.22	2.4
Margate	10.15	4.5	22.49	4.6
Milford Haven	4.31	6.2	16.38	6.4
Newquay	3.16	6.2	15.22	6.4
Oban	4.06	3.5	16.12	3.7
Penzance	2.48	5.0	15.04	5.1
Portland	4.48	1.8	16.54	1.8
Portsmouth	9.38	4.4	21.52	4.3
Shoreham	9.27	5.7	21.47	5.6
Southampton	9.03	4.4	21.18	4.3
Swansea	4.24	8.5	16.45	8.7
Tees	1.34	5.1	14.08	5.1
Walton-on-Naze	9.51	3.9	22.19	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises 7.10 am — Sun sets 4.10 pm
Moon sets 3.31 pm — Moon rises 4.06 am

London 4.16 pm to 7.22 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 7.11 am
Edinburgh 4.04 pm to 7.53 am
Manchester 4.11 pm to 7.36 am
Penzance 4.37 pm to 7.38 am

New moon November 19

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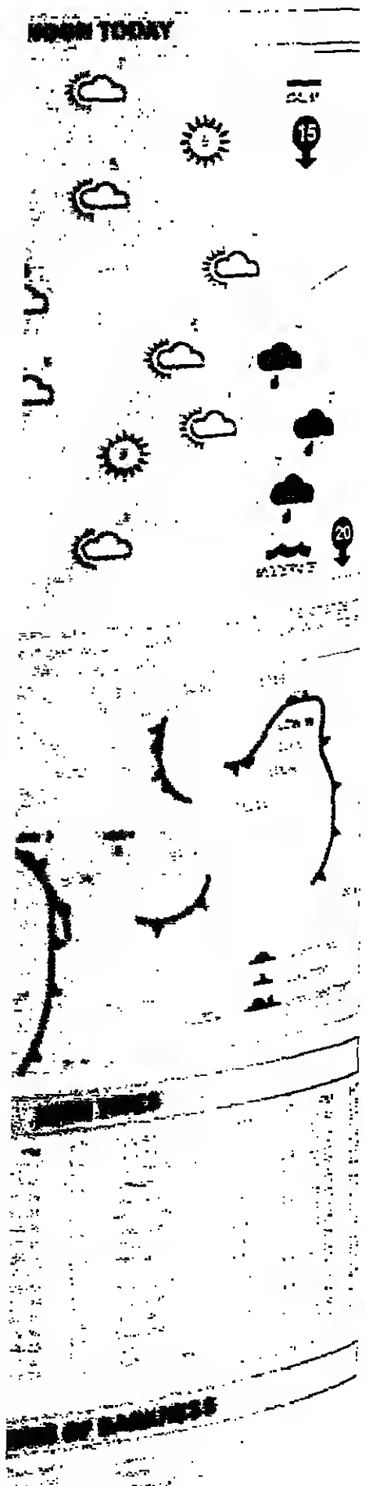
LETTERS

Americans threatened with prison. Livingstone for mayor. Prince of Wales at 50. Human Rights Act compact for children ..... Page 23

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7 11 12 17 23 39 Bonus 42



MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 1998

PREMIERSHIP LEADERS WELL PREPARED FOR LONG RUN

Aston Villa: pretenders or contenders?

Kevin McCarra says the surprise pacemakers can make a lasting challenge

WITH their 4-1 victory over Southampton on Saturday, Aston Villa left the nets rippling at The Dell and a tremor, too, is running through all the assumptions about the nature of the contest for the FA Carling Premiership. It will not take long before complacency collapses completely. John Gregory's side must be regarded as contenders for the title.

It will be hard to overhaul a team that continues to gather pace. By avoiding defeat in the opening 12 fixtures of the league season, they have bettered a club record that had stood since 1932. The development of the squad that has created that sequence matters more than the statistic. Dion Dublin's hat-trick against Southampton brought his goals total to five in the two matches he has played since moving from Coventry City for £5.75 million.

Dublin, who is joined in the England party by three other Villa players — Paul Merson, Gareth Southgate and Lee Hendrie — could well play in the match with the Czech Republic on Wednesday. The recruitment of so effective a forward to partner Stan Collymore has quashed the claim that Gregory merely has a starchy side that lack the attacking power to succeed. But the greatest tests have yet to come.

In the space of eight days, starting on December 5, they meet Manchester United at home and Chelsea at Stamford Bridge before returning to Villa Park to face Arsenal. Gregory is liable to view that sequence of fixtures only as an opportunity to damage the other principal contenders for the title. Positive thinking has rampaged through the club since he was appointed manager in February of this year.

Subsequently, Villa have not lost an away game in the Premiership. Gregory is fond of the outspoken remark that may leave its target seething, but he is also intent on provoking Villa to exist on a larger scale. Given the extent of the support and the size of the city of Birmingham, it is almost embarrassing that they have only taken the championship on one occasion, in 1981, since the First World War.

The manager is striving to deepen ambitions. Few members of the crowd would have expected such exploits from Gregory when he left Wycombe Wanderers to become Brian Little's successor. In the early days of this season, when Dwight Yorke was sold to Manchester United for £12.5 million, there were a woebegone conviction among supporters that Villa had also parted company with ambition.

Gregory, though, has employed the proceeds to strengthen every area of the side. Apart from Dublin, Merson was bought from Middlesbrough for £6.75 million to act as a prompter in advanced midfield and Steve Watson was taken from Newcastle United, for £4 million, to fill the wing-back role on the right. Opulence is apparent in the quality of the players called upon irregularly.

Among those on the bench at The Dell were Mark Draper, a £3.25 million signing by Little from Leicester City, Alan Thompson, extracted from Bolton Wanderers for £4.5 million and Julian Joachim, an eager deputy when Collymore is injured. The newcomers acquired by Gregory alone have cost £21million. In the circumstances, there should be less surprise over Villa's upsurge.

The manager has a trace of the maverick in his character and a breach with convention has its value at a club in the habit of under-achievement. Gregory toyed with the fashionable idea of foreign purchases, but concluded, he has explained, that they are like holiday romances. Before long, it is impossible to fathom what the attraction was. With Michael Oakes replacing the injured Mark Bosnich in goal, the team is composed of Englishmen.

Gregory is adroit, but he has also benefited from good fortune. David Unsworth came to Villa from West Ham United and was immediately unsettled. His departure for Everton saw Gareth Barry, the remarkable teenager, become a regular member of the defence. That convergence of good planning and mere chance contribute to the feeling that this will be an unusual season for the club.

Fans, reliving the triumph of 17 years ago, will also be heartened by a telling analogy. Then, Ipswich Town were the main rivals, but found themselves taxed by prolonged involvement in the Uefa Cup and FA Cup. Villa, to their eventual advantage, were quickly eliminated from everything other than the league. This time, Villa's season is again being streamlined, by early disappointment in the Worthington Cup and Uefa Cup. Gregory will wish Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea long and exhausting participation in their respective European competitions.

Dublin's day, page 31
FA Cup, page 33

Vintage claret? Dublin celebrates on the way to his hat-trick at Southampton on Saturday, but is the Villa class of '98, below left, of the same quality as Dennis Mortimer's 1980-81 champions? Main photograph: Robin Jones

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GOLF

Westwood completes treble in Japan

By Our Sports Staff

LEE WESTWOOD became the first player to win the Taiheiyo Masters title three years in succession after shooting a final-round three-under-par 69 at Gotemba, in Japan, yesterday.

The 25-year-old Englishman recovered from bogeying the first two holes to shoot six birdies on his way to a 13-under total of 275. That left Westwood two shots clear of Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki, of Japan, who shot a 67 — the day's best round. Eduardo Herrera, of Colombia, was third after firing a 71 for a total 278. Frankie Minoza, of the Philippines, the overnight leader, struggled to a 74 and finished fourth at 279. Westwood has now won six times worldwide this year and this latest victory was worth £101,818.

"I got off to a slow start but I kept my composure," Westwood said. "I knew I had to dig in there and play a little better. I've shown a lot of material the last two days. This course obviously suits me. I look forward to coming back next year and the year after that and the year after that."

Westwood knew somebody was making a late charge but was unaware that it was Ozaki, who was seeking his fourth title this year and 110th during his career.

"All the scoreboards are in Japanese," he said. "Jumbo is a good player and you expect him to make a charge on the last day, like he did last year." Ozaki finished in joint-second place 12 months ago, a shot behind Westwood.

Julian Muscat maps out the cause of British No 2's Hanover heartbreak

Rusedski rues home discomfort

SO CLOSE did Greg Rusedski's late-season flourish take him to the ATP Tour world championship that his fate was almost certainly sealed by an accident of geography.

It was before 4,000 partisan Swedes that Rusedski was narrowly denied by Thomas Johansson, the local favourite, in the semi-finals in Stockholm on Saturday. And it was before 18,000 baying Moscovites that Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the hero of Russian tennis, completed a nerve-jangling, 7-6, 7-6 victory over Goran Ivanisevic that carried him ahead of Rusedski and into the eighth and final berth at Hanover.

Home advantage is always worth a point or two — as Rusedski poignantly noted on the eve of his match with Johansson. Recalling a previous meeting with the Swede in Stockholm, which he lost 8-6 in the decisive tie-break, Rusedski said that an umpire's overrule on a line-call made all the difference.

On this occasion, Rusedski felt that Johansson was again blessed by the fates when, facing set point in the second-set tie-break, he saw a rasping forehand pass clip the net on the way to its target. In truth, however, Johansson deserved his victory. He stood firm at moments of crisis and Rusedski failed to conjure his best form when he needed it most.

"He was rushing between his serves and double-faulted at important moments," Johansson said after his 7-5, 7-6 triumph. "He was really tight and nervous. He can serve a lot better that he did against me."

Rusedski's Hanover points haul of 2,451 failed him by the scant margin of 36. He looked thoroughly dejected in defeat, fatigued by playing nine matches in 14 days. His assault on Hanover was mounted against overwhelming odds after a summer of inactivity left him hopelessly adrift at the start of the indoor season in Europe.

Rusedski struggles in vain to find his true form against Johansson, the local favourite. Photograph: Mark Earthy

Indeed, Rusedski's Hanover crusade — he is the first reserve — may not be over. The attrition rate in the race for places has been such that Pat Rafter and Richard Krajicek have already withdrawn through injury. Furthermore, doubts persist about the fitness of both Pete Sampras and Marcelo Rios.

Sampras withdrew from Lyons three weeks ago with damaged back muscles, a different version of the same ailment almost prompting a similar predicament in Paris. Rios, too, has been plagued by the back injury he suffered in Munich seven weeks ago.

Rios's persistent complaint caused him to underperform in his native Santiago on Friday, when he lost to Juan Antonio Marin, world-ranked No 88, in the quarter-finals. The Chilean, whose ambivalence to the game's most prestigious honours is a constant theme, may not relish another inter-continental journey now that he is ensconced back at home.

Rusedski, who thus ends 1998 ranked No 11 in the world, was in no mood to contemplate a Hanover entry in such circumstances. "It feels terrible to have come that close and fall short," he said. "I am not now going to be ranked in the top ten, which is also disappointing.

"If I had those two lost months in summer, I'd probably have finished the year in the top five," he said. "My goal is to get back into the top five early next year. If I work hard, I think I can win a grand slam in 1999. The ATP finals are important, but this game is about the slams, starting in Australia. I want to prove I can perform Down Under."

This has been a difficult year for Rusedski, whose late-season flourish has still seen him forfeit five ranking places in 12 months. Only he knows the true legacy of playing Wimbledon on the ankle ligament he strained at Queen's Club 13 days earlier. The injury made remarkable progress in those 13 days, yet his abortive Wimbledon bid prompted a further absence of eight weeks and left him underprepared for the US Open.

Rusedski acknowledged that he would only have made the ATP finals because of the defections of Rafter and Krajicek. Their injuries also ensured that Tim Henman, who will make his full debut in Hanover, would otherwise have missed the end-of-season party by one place. Henman will rise by one place, to No 9, when the world rankings are updated today.

Henman recognised that he must regroup after his tame semi-final loss to Todd Martin in Stockholm on Saturday if he is to make an impact in Hanover. Having won the opening set in businesslike fashion, he promptly capitulated. Martin cruising to a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory, before an equally emphatic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Johansson in the final.

Henman's vital victory over Magnus Gustafsson on Friday undoubtedly left him flat. "I find it disappointing that I didn't have the adrenalin levels of the previous day," he said. "The purpose in coming here was to qualify for Hanover, but that didn't mean that my tournament was over. My attitude should have been better."

SWIMMING

Hickman turns on the style to claim win

By Craig Lord

THERE is no stopping James Hickman: even when he swims slower than his opponents, he still wins — his victory in the 100 metres freestyle at the Speedo Britisb grand prix in Wolverhampton coming at the expense of a surprised Sion Brinn last night.

Brinn, a former Jamaican, was beginning to think passage to his first Great Britain team as a sprint freestyler had been a relatively effortless affair, having already won the 50 metres and, having failed to make the final of the 200 metres, winning the B final in a time faster than that which won the A final. But in the 100 metres, Brinn's best event, he came up against a determined Hickman, who used the tricks of his butterfly trade to steal the race from Brinn in 50.51sec to 50.78sec.

Brinn clearly had the edge in terms of swiftness through the water, but Hickman unleashed one of the key weapons in his butterfly armoury, emerging from the start head and shoulders ahead and gaining two metres at every turn by dolphin-kicking underwater for some 12 metres out of the wall, which is legal in freestyle. Just as Brinn caught up, up came another turn and the race was lost.

Heidi Earp, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Joanne Mullins, from Orpington, beat the two women who represented England at the Commonwealth Games in the summer. Earp won the 200 metres last night, Mullins the 100 metres on Saturday.

BASKETBALL

Champions fading fast

By Nicholas Harling

THE impressive glass bowl that goes with the Budweiser League title will almost certainly be finding a new home next season. The two defeats suffered over the weekend by the Leopards, taking them to seven losses in all, as many as they experienced during all of last season, confirmed that the champions are fading fast.

Ironically, it was in the Sheffield Arena, the scene of their title triumph last April, that the Leopards endured their most embarrassing defeat, when they were humiliated yesterday 115-81 by the Sheffield Sharks, who swept quickly back to winning form after enduring their first defeat eight days earlier.

The Sharks took control in the second quarter, starting with a 14-5 burst and ending with a 9-0 flurry to leave the Leopards demoralised — none more so than Eric Burks. The league's most valuable player last season, Burks finished with only four points. Tim Moore collected 24, but the Sharks had the matchwinners in Terrell Myers, with 27 points, and Travis Conlan, with 22. Peter Scantlebury, the England captain who joined the Sharks last week, failed to score during his 28 minutes on court, but collected four rebounds and provided 11 assists.

The Leopards had gone down 95-91 at home to Chester Jets the previous night. Saturday was indeed a night of upsets, chief among them being the first success after 11 defeats of Edinburgh Rocks, winners by 97-94 at Worthing Bears, who have done nothing right under Sean Loucks, their new coach.

They eventually succumbed when Sean Bell sank two free throws with 16sec left. Bell, a Virginian, has filled the vacancy left by Dameon Page after he was cut by Edinburgh last week. Worthing, however, had the game's top scorer in Jon Gains, who would have taken the game to overtime had he been able to add to his 37 points with a three-point attempt with two seconds left.

Leicester Riders registered another surprise when they overcame London Towers 82-72 with the help of 20 points from Billy Singleton and 19 from Karl Brown against his former club.

NETBALL

Turner inspires Linden title bid

A SUPERB exhibition of accurate shooting by Sandra Turner, the Linden goal attack, crushed any hopes that Wyvern had of atoning for their heavy defeat last season when they went down 45-37 to the champions in the National Clubs' League at Milton Keynes.

The former Ireland international netted ten times in the opening quarter as Linden raced to a 17-8 lead, an advantage that they rarely looked liked relinquishing.

Vital to the titleholders' success were the performances at centre by Olivia Murphy, the England international, and Lisa Driver, the goal defence. Turner's precision in the circle accounted for 29 of Linden's goals, with Lisa Topliess, the former England shooter, finding the net 16 times. Sarah van Nierop, the wing attack, boosted the home team after the interval, but Linden, who led 26-19 at that time, were undeterred.

Linden's triumph puts them on course to retain the title after New Cambell, one of their closest rivals, suffered a surprising 74-57 defeat by Hirondelles.

Lyn Carpenter, part of the England Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning squad, followed her impressive form in the county championship with 25 goals, but the star of the show was Helena Skarbek, the Hirondelles' goal shooter, with 49.

SNOOKER

Higgins uneasy favourite

By Phil Yates

RARELY has the perception of snooker, on and off the table, differed so acutely. Co-existing alongside a groundswell of deep dissatisfaction towards the game's administration is an ongoing, compelling tournament scenario.

Gone are the days when one dominant player, such as Steve Davis or Stephen Hendry, virtually monopolised silverware and the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship, which begins today, is another wide-open event.

After being held at Preston Guild Hall since 1978, the event, regarded as second in importance only to the Embassy world championship, has moved to the Bournemouth International Centre, a venue within easy reach of the sponsors' headquarters. John Higgins, the world No 1, is a marginal favourite to capture the UK title for the first time, but, having lost his opening match in the Grand Prix last month to Quinten Hann, of Australia, it is doubtful whether he will attract a rush of wagers. That also applies to Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Hendry, who has won only one world ranking tournament in 12 attempts since February 1997, has been inconsistent, while O'Sullivan seems increasingly disillusioned with the game in general.

The Grand Prix thrust Stephen Lee and Marco Fu to prominence and if Lee can duplicate his form of the final, in which he defeated the Hong Kong player 9-2, he could complete a lucrative double. After failing to win a ranking event since the 1992 UK championship, Jimmy White is quoted at 66-1 for the £75,000 first prize. The good news, though, is that he has recovered from the back injury that forced his withdrawal from the Benson and Hedges Championship last week.

Luke Simmonds, of the Isle of Wight, edged Ryan Day, of Bridgend, 11-10 in the final of the IBSF world amateur championship in Guangzhou, China, yesterday. Simmonds, 19, who required a snooker on the last red in the deciding frame, also won the world under-21 title in Malta three weeks ago and becomes only the third player, after Fu and Ken Doherty, to achieve that double in the same year.

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EQUESTRIANISM: IRISHMAN WINS ETERNIT GRAND PRIX IN THRILLING FINISH

Charles's faith repaid in jump-off

From Jenny MacArthur in Berlin

PETER CHARLES, the former Great Britain competitor who now rides for Ireland, has always said that, in Traxdata Carnavelly, he has one of the best young horses in Europe. Yesterday, in front of a capacity crowd in the Velodrome Arena, his faith in the horse, still just 8, was confirmed when he won the £13,000 first prize in the Eternit Grand Prix, the main event on the closing day of the Berlin World Cup show.

In a thrilling finish, Charles, the tenth to go in the 12-horse jump-off, went into the lead with a time of 33.83sec. Franke Sloothaak, of Germany, the former world champion, failed to match Charles's time, on San Patrignano Joly, and had to be content with second place. Hugo Simon, the last to go, on ET, was faster than Charles, but, in his haste, incurred four faults. Di Lampard, the only Briton to reach the jump-off, finished fourth, on Abbervail Dream — behind Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst, of Germany, on Power Light — after one of her best rounds against the clock at this level.

Lampard: finished fourth

Charles, who lives near Alton in Hampshire but adopted Irish nationality in 1992, has rarely been more delighted with a win. "I've spent nearly three years bringing him on carefully so he could perform like this," he said.

For the two Whitaker brothers, winners on the second day of the show, the week ended on a disappointing note. John Whitaker, who had retired Welham from the World Cup qualifier on Saturday, was eliminated in the Grand Prix when Amber du Montois stopped at the combination.

His younger brother, Michael, who had a refusal nn Virtual Village Ashley in the qualifier, had little compensation yesterday when Ashley was retired. Geoff Billington completed the British fall-out when he had 12 faults on Niko yesterday.

The qualifier was won by Beat Mandli, of Switzerland, on his German stallion, Poor Boy, to relegate Rene Tebbel, on Radiator, to second place. Ludger Beerbaum, finished third, on Neron de la Tourelle.

Richard Davison, the only Briton in the World Cup dressage qualifier yesterday, produced a confident performance on Hiscox Askari to finish sixth — one place higher than in the Grand Prix on Saturday. The event, won by Isabell Werth, of Germany, on Nissan Antony, ended in acrimony when Werth's compatriot, Ulla Salzgeber, was so upset at her second place, on Rusty — she had finished one point ahead of Werth in the Grand Prix — that she declared afterwards she would not compete in any more qualifiers.

SQUASH: FOURTH SUCCESSIVE TITLE FOR RAMPANT WORLD CHAMPIONS

Australians remain a class apart

From Colin McQuillan in Stuttgart

AUSTRALIA defeated England 3-0 here yesterday to take a fourth successive women's world team squash championship. With Michelle Martin, the world No 1, and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, leading the Australia line, they were unsurprisingly the top seeds.

The Australia women are so far ahead of the rest of the world that they had already clinched victory over England, four times the winners of this biennial championship since 1979, before Fitz-Gerald was required to hit a ball.

Any chance that England had of upsetting the Australians rested upon Sue Wright defeating Martin in the opening rubber of the final. Wright, the British champion, needed to repeat the defeat that she had inflicted upon the world No 1 in the Australian's first outing of 1998 in Antwerp last March and, when Wright took the third game 10-9 yesterday after a fierce battle from a lead of 7-1, it seemed that she might indeed do so.

However, Martin has won 11 of 13 finals in leading tournaments since then, and although she admitted that she was feeling tired and waiting to "get back to a beach for a couple of months", but she was still able to extend her game to win 9-3, 3-9, 9-10, 9-2, 9-5 in 63 minutes.

Stuart Courtney, the England team manager, preferred Jane Martin, the heroine of England's tight semi-final victory over New Zealand on Saturday, for the vital third-string rubber that followed, but the Newcastle 26-year-old subsided tamely 9-4, 9-7, 9-1 in 22 minutes to Carol Owens. Suzanne Horner was given the unenviable task of playing out the dead second-string rubber with the world champion and was defeated 9-6, 9-4 in just 19 minutes. Courtney said: "We were always struggling to deal with this exceptional Australian squad once we lost Cassandra Jackman [the England No 1] to an ankle injury before the championship."

Scotland moved up to twelfth position despite a last-day 2-1 defeat to Belgium, while Ireland finished fourteenth after losing 2-1 to Switzerland yesterday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Clarke sets the pace in challenge for trophy

■ CYCLING: Barrie Clarke extended his lead in the national cyclo-cross trophy after winning the second round of the four-race series at Ashton Court, Bristol, yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). He was made to struggle all the way by Nick Craig, the national champion, who finished 1sec behind on his first competitive outing of the winter. Tim Gould who, like Craig, uses cyclo-cross as a form of training for the summer mountain bike season, finished third a further 31sec in arrears.

In dry, fast conditions, the trio broke clear of the field at the halfway stage, opening a four-minute lead over Carl Sturgeon, Clarke's team-mate, who was fourth. Clarke, the holder, now leads the competition by 26 points from Steve Knight, who could finish only sixth.

Arsenal on march

■ FOOTBALL: Arsenal took full advantage of the postponement of the Doncaster Belles match against Croydon to return to the top of the women's National League premier division with a convincing 5-0 victory away to Liverpool FC Ladies yesterday. Tranmere Rovers reached their highest position in the table, joint-second with Doncaster, thanks to a hat-trick from Sue Smith, their England forward, in a 3-0 win over Southampton Saints. Everton, the defending champions, gained their second successive victory by defeating Ilkeston Town 2-1, with two first-half goals scored by McGrady and Burke.

Graf continues advance

■ TENNIS: Steffi Graf, of Germany, continued her domination of Nathalie Tauziat, of France, as she moved into her second successive final at the Advanta championships in Philadelphia. Graf, who defeated Tauziat to win in Leipzig last week, needed little more than an hour to dispose of the No 6 seed 6-1, 6-4 and has now won all 21 matches between the two players. She was due to meet Lindsay Davenport, who beat Monica Seles 6-3, 6-3, in the final. Graf secured her place in the Chase Championships next week after Venus Williams's withdrawal.

Olsson is edged out

■ BOBSLEIGHING: Sean Olsson, a bronze medal-winner for Great Britain at the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, narrowly missed out on another podium finish in the opening round of the World Cup in Calgary yesterday. Olsson and his new four-man crew of Dean Ward, Andy Lewis and Eric Sekwalor, finished fourth, only 0.09sec behind Bruno Mingeon, of France. The surprise winner, Andre Lange, in the No 3 Germany sledge, took the gold medal by a tenth of a second.

هكذا من الأصل

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Hick called to join tour party as problems mount with Brisbane Test only five days away

Latest failure by Butcher adds to England anxiety

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS

CAIRNS (third day of four): England XI, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need 68 runs to beat Queensland

WHATEVER else may be said of England's build-up for the Ashes series, it has not lacked variety. They encountered a dramatically quick pitch in Perth, a numbingly slow one in Adelaide and, here in tropical Cairns, a surface of such increasingly eccentric bounce that 17 wickets fell yesterday.

David Lloyd, the coach, even with the team's unbeaten record in peril, refused to complain about conditions, instead emphasising the benefits of a game in melting humidity. Brisbane, Australia's stickiest Test ground, will seem a comparative breeze when the series begins on Friday, but the problem is that England are approaching it in a state of growing anxiety over what seemed to be one of their principal strengths.

On the evidence of last summer, England had identified a compatible opening pair. Now, however, Michael Atherton is once more incapacitated by back trouble and Mark Butcher's form has deserted him. Together, they made a sorry spectacle yesterday. Atherton moved gingerly around the marquee that houses the teams, taking no active part in proceedings and looking twice his age whenever obliged to bend. Butcher might have settled for such private discomfort rather than the public exposure of a second-ball nought that leaves him with nine runs from five first-class innings on tour.

There is no question that Butcher will play — and open — in Brisbane. It would be folly to discard an apparent asset before a serious ball is bowled. The debate that is already dividing the tour selectors will concern the balance of the team and events yesterday have increased the likelihood that England will go against the instincts of the captain, Alec Stewart, by playing seven specialist batsmen.

It is not only Butcher's form and Atherton's fitness that conspire towards this course. Robert Croft, whom Stewart is keen to have in his team, finished yesterday hobbling and Ben Hollioake, the third option, has not played a first-class game on tour.

Butcher's latest failure, draining his already shallow confidence, gave England a negative start as they set off in search of 142 and the magnitude of the task was evident when they then lost three wickets in five balls to Michael Kasprowicz. Both Stewart, who was leg-before first ball, and John Crawley were out to balls that barely rose shin-high.

The lack of pace in this pitch has deceived many, but the extremes of bounce are a developing hazard. It could not have presented a greater contrast to the placid pastures of Adelaide, where, last Tuesday, England batted through an entire day without losing a wicket.

They lost three in the opening 20 minutes yesterday, a portent of things to come. Adam Dale, whose metronomic medium pace has been perfectly suited to this pitch, finished with career-best figures of seven for 33, raising the possibility that he could play his second Test in Brisbane.

England's 192 had been compiled at a painful rate, below two runs per over, and left them with a deficit of 17. This seemed to be scarcely significant when Darren Gough, red-faced and wholehearted in the most stifling heat of the day, took two wickets in his first three overs, winning a leg-before decision against a tentative Martin Love before plucking out Stuart Law's off stump.

At nine for two, with Matthew Hayden unfit to bat, Queensland were effectively 26 for three, but, as Gough tired, they were navigated into calmer waters by a resourceful half-century from Jimmy Maher, who applied the basic prerequisite by getting forward to almost everything. A stand of 47 with Andrew Symonds was the biggest of the day, but Croft took two wickets soon after lunch and the innings was in terminal decline once Alan Mullally had produced an unpleasant lifter for Ian Healy.

Even Maher was helpless to prevent a similar ball from Dean Headley taking a thick edge to gully and the difficulties of batting were advertised again when Andy Bichel received a shooter from Dominic Cork.

After a wayward start to his tour in Perth, when it seemed that he might easily prove expendable, Cork has rallied impressively, bowling with greater control and even batting with a maturity that has too often seemed beyond him. Pressed into service as an opener, he now played with great enterprise, despite the immediate loss of Butcher, who survived his first ball with the benefit of edge and pad, nervously took guard again and fell leg-before playing back.

There was little doubt about the validity of this decision, but England's feeling that they have suffered the rough end of the umpiring was to be aggravated before the close. In the meantime, Cork and Hussain batted in the forthright fashion of those who know that to linger, strokeless, was merely to delay the inevitable.

Hussain played some of the shots of the match before a misjudgment of Kasprowicz's length cost him dear. Stewart went back, fatally, to his first ball and Crawley soon followed, but Cork was still stretching forward purposefully and shovelling anything off line over mid-wicket. He was assuredly unlucky to be given out, on the front foot, in the penultimate over of a fevered day.

The bails fly and the middle stump disappears as Crawley is bowled in Cairns

SCOREBOARD FROM CAIRNS

QUEENSLAND: First Innings

M L Hayden retired hurt	0
J P Maher c Croft b Gough	3
M L Love c Crawley b Gough	29
S G Law c Ramprakash b Headley	10
A Symonds b Mullally	12
O I Foley c Hussain b Gough	71
*†I A Healy c Ramprakash b Croft	57
A J Bichel c and b Croft	2
A C Dale b Croft	4
P W Jackson lbw b Cork	0
M S Kasprowicz not out	6
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 1, nb 9)	12
Total	209

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-36, 3-61, 4-69, 5-159, 6-160, 7-184, 8-185, 9-209.
BOWLING: Gough 16-4-37-2, Cork 12-1-25-1; Headley 15-7-33-1; Mullally 17-3-40-1; Croft 22-5-56-3; Ramprakash 1-1-0-0.

Second Innings

J P Maher c Hussain b Headley	56
M L Lover lbw Gough	0
S G Law b Gough	7
A Symonds c Crawley b Croft	20
G I Foley lbw Croft	1
*†I A Healy c Stewart b Mullally	5
A J Bichel b Cork	6
M S Kasprowicz b Gough	18
P W Jackson lbw Cork	0
A C Dale not out	7
M L Hayden absent injured	0
Extras (lb 4)	4
Total	124

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-8, 3-58, 4-62, 5-85, 6-99, 7-103, 8-103, 9-124.
BOWLING: Gough 11.2-2-29-3; Cork 9-4-13-2; Mullally 13-5-21-1; Headley 11-1-30-1; Croft 10-2-27-2.

ENGLAND XI: First Innings

M A Butcher c Dale	2
M A Atherton c Healy b Dale	0
N Hussain c Love b Bichel	40
*†A J Stewart lbw b Dale	52
J P Crawley lbw b Dale	27
M R Ramprakash lbw b Jackson	16
D G Cork c Kasprowicz b Dale	23
R D B Croft lbw b Dale	0
D Gough not out	7
D W Headley b Dale	3
A D Mullally c Symonds b Bichel	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 1, nb 13)	22
Total	192

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-4, 3-104, 4-111, 5-139, 6-160, 7-160, 8-185, 9-191.
BOWLING: Kasprowicz 14-3-40-0, Dale 23-9-33-7, Foley 11-2-26-0; Bichel 17.2-4-43-2, Jackson 29-13-33-1; Maher 1-0-2-0; Symonds 3-0-7-0.

Second Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Bichel	0
D G Cork lbw b Dale	36
N Hussain lbw b Kasprowicz	24
*†A J Stewart lbw b Kasprowicz	0
J P Crawley b Kasprowicz	4
M R Ramprakash not out	4
D W Headley not out	0
Extras (lb 6)	6
Total (5 wkts)	74

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-45, 3-45, 4-51, 5-74.
BOWLING: Bichel 6-0-25-1, Dale 5-2-10-1; Kasprowicz 7-1-14-3; Jackson 7-1-19-0.
Umpires: A J McQuillan and S J Trausel

Atherton seeks urgent cure for back pain

FROM ALAN LEE

MICHAEL ATHERTON will consult a specialist in Brisbane tomorrow, seeking an urgent cure for the recurring back condition that is threatening his participation in the Ashes series. Graeme Hick will fly out from London this evening to cover for the worst eventuality.

The decision to recruit Hick was taken last night, after a day of anxiety over Atherton's latest relapse. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, endorsed the need to send reinforcements, saying that it was "the right and proper thing to do". Hick, he said, would stay with the squad as long as necessary.

"Michael's back condition is well-documented," Graveney said. "There is no suggestion at this stage he will be forced out of the tour through injury, although we will monitor the situation closely."

Atherton has come to a crossroads, difficult decisions pressing in on him at a most inconvenient time. He was once more forced to rest yesterday, after waking in Cairns feeling stiff and immobile, and, with the first Test in Brisbane now only four days distant, he admits that the situation is critical.

"It has been as bad over the weekend as it was at the end of the summer and obviously the timing is a real nuisance," he said. "There is no point in pretending, or in going on playing half-fit. I have got to get it sorted out."

Such words will be alarming to the gathering clans of England supporters, for whom so much hope is invested in Atherton, but the former captain refused to concede that the series will start too soon for him.

"With an injection, there is no reason why I shouldn't be out there on Friday," Atherton said. "Batting is not really the problem, it's the bending and stretching in the field that is hard, but I've been through this before and I've only missed one Test in the past few years."

That absence occurred in August, when England lost to Sri Lanka in the last Test of summer. Atherton was troubled for some weeks afterwards, but reported for this tour apparently recovered.

"I felt really good in Perth," Atherton said. "Although I missed the four-day game there, it was with a thigh strain. The back problem has not been good since I arrived in Cairns and it was sensible to stay off the field today."

The team management have kept their concerns over Atherton private, but they were brought to a head last Thursday, a free day, when he reported more backache and was given an indoor fitness test late in the afternoon.

The decision to include him against Queensland has misfired on all fronts. He was out first ball on Saturday — a leg-side wicketkeeping catch completing a sequence of three bizarre dismissals — and his back worsened for spending Friday in the field.

Late yesterday, as England wickets tumbled again on an untrustworthy pitch, Atherton put on his pads and prepared to bat. The emergency that he would prefer to have avoided had occurred and, though he was not required before the close of the third day, he was expected to bat this morning.

His more serious appointment, however, will come 24 hours later, when he is examined and diagnosed. Though still only 30, Atherton has known for years that his career could be ended at any time by this condition, but neither he, nor anyone concerned for the fortunes of England, is quite ready for it yet.

Atherton is brought to his knees by his latest back pain

Lara posts his intent with rapid century

BRIAN LARA, the West Indies captain, scored a century to take his side to tea on 213 for five yesterday on the second day of their four-day match against Griqualand West.

The 29-year-old proved that he is ready for the first Test against South Africa on November 26 when he struck 16 fours and two sixes on his way to 101 off 140 deliveries. He was eventually out to a fine catch in the covers by Andre Botha, off the bowling of Martyn Gidley, the spinner — Botha gaining some revenge after Lara had earlier scored 24 runs off his fourth over.

Gidley, bowling in tandem with Pat Symcox, the off spinner, managed to gain some control after West Indies had begun at a startling pace. However, Adri Swanepoel proved to be more successful as the left-arm pace bowler first broke the 107-run partnership between Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Lara, when he had Chanderpaul caught by Brooker for 42, and then trapped Stuart Williams leg-before to finish with two for 44 from 14 overs.

The other wickets to fall were those of Clayton Lambert and Philo Wallace, the opening batsmen, dismissed for 11 and 19 respectively.

ICE SKATING: BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS FALL SHORT OF ACHIEVING OVERALL QUALITY

Main accepts her chance to claim third national crown

BY ANGELA COURT

THE British figure skating championships, which ended at Milton Keynes on Saturday, proved to be a mixed affair in terms of quality. The ice dance event turned into one of the best competitions in recent years, but the ladies' and men's free skating sections threw up a catalogue of mistakes from the majority of those taking part.

The ladies' short programme, on Friday, had shown a marked improvement on last year, but the free programme failed to follow suit. Stephanie Main, the former two-times champion from Murrayfield, saved the section from being a complete disaster with a mature performance that easily earned her a third title. Although she landed only two triple jumps, the toe loop and loop, it was two more than anyone else could manage and the overall quality of her skating clearly separated Main from her rivals, all of whom made countless errors.

"I've enjoyed competing again," Main, 22, who last won this title in 1995, said. "A lot of people wrote me off because I haven't been around, but that just made me more determined."

Tammy Sear, from Milton Keynes, who had given the performance of her life in the short programme, finished in second place, despite making several mistakes in the free section. Zoe Jones, from Blackburn, who fell twice, took the bronze.

In the men's event, first place went to Clive Shorten, who executed two clean triple jumps in combination and, despite falling on a triple flip, performed a well-presented programme. His victory represented a triumph over adversity. After competing at the world championships in Birmingham in 1995, Shorten injured his left knee, underwent three operations and spent more than a year on the sidelines.

Clements and Shortland: retained ice dance crown

The silver medal went to Matthew Davies, who advanced from fourth place after the short programme. He had won the junior title earlier in the week and showed much promise for the future. Davies has performed well in the international Junior Grand Prix this year and will represent Great Britain at the junior world championships in Zagreb next week. Stuart Bell, from Solihull, won the bronze medal on Saturday.

In the ice dance event, Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland defended their title, but the Slough couple had to pull out all the stops in their free dance programme as the competition produced a nail-biting finish. Three of the judges placed Sinead Kerr and Jamie Ferguson, the eventual runners-up, from Aberdeen and Altrincham respectively, in first place and two other judges awarded their highest marks to Marika Humphreys and Vitaliy Baranov, from Blackburn and Deeside.

Kerr and Ferguson pushed the winners all the way. Their up-tempo routine, which included a hydroblade move, was both technical and entertaining and drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Humphreys and Baranov may not have triumphant on this occasion, but they have worked a minor miracle in the short time that they have been together. They first teamed up in May, when they were both taking part in the "Hot Ice Show" at Blackpool, and have had to fit their training around their work for the show, which did not finish until last weekend.

The National Ice Skating Association will announce the Britain teams today for the European and world championships next year.

BOWLS

English pair retain title

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN KOWLOON

ANDY WILLS and Stuart Airey, the England pair, retained their Manulife Hong Kong International Classic pairs title in Kowloon yesterday when they defeated Adam Jeffery and Rex Johnston, from Australia, 17-16, in the semi-finals and Jason Greenslade and Robert Price, of Wales, 26-7, in the final.

Wills, a Cheltenham protégé of Tony Aounger, and Airey have six years' experience of playing lead and second as part of the England quartet who are the world outdoor singles champions.

Their victory last year was regarded as something of a surprise, after England had sent a succession of senior players to Hong Kong without success since the Classic was first staged in 1981, but the young apprentices proved their ability this year.

Although Wills played superbly at lead in the final, he was matched for long spells by Greenslade and it was again left to the brilliance of Airey to make the vital difference, just as it had in the semi-finals.

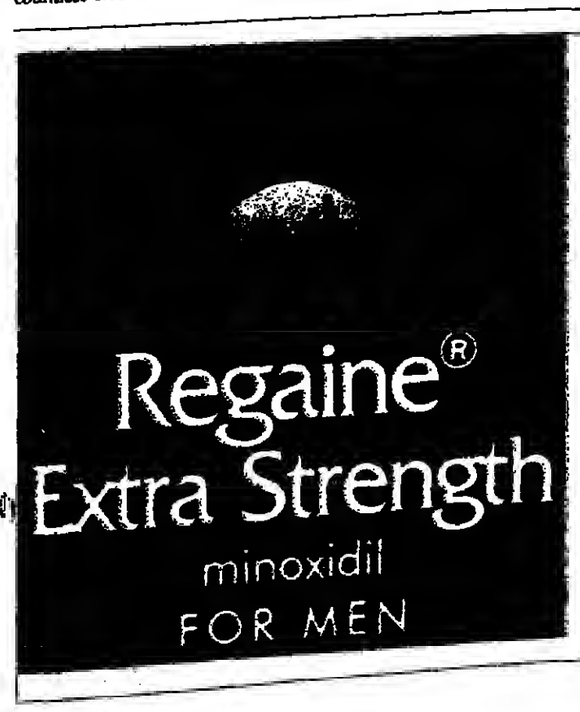
Then, England were two adrift of Australia with two ends to play and looked certain to drop a shot on the penultimate end. Then, on a full-length jack, Airey delivered a near-perfect bowl to within an inch of the target, 36 metres away.

On the last end, he calmly drew two shots to give England a memorable victory and earn them a place in the final. Here, they came up against a Welsh pair who had transformed themselves into a successful partnership by changing positions towards the end of the round-robin programme.

With Greenslade, who had started out at skip, leading beautifully and Price looking the part, the pair had attacked their way through to the knock-out stage.

A 29-11 quarter-final victory over Bobby Donnelly and Neil Burkett established them as the new favourites and they moved into the final with a hard-fought 17-15 win over Larry Parker and David Tso, who were representing the Hong Kong Bowling Association.

After the final, the beaten pair were full of praise for their English opponents: "Andy and Stuart fully deserved to win," Price said. "Whatever we did, Stuart was able to beat it. He played an incredible game."



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FA Carling Premiership: Draw against former club delights Tottenham manager

Graham elated by mirror image

ARSENAL 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

Graham and Chris Hughton, his assistant, get behind the Tottenham team during the goalless draw at Highbury. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

GEORGE GRAHAM stood in an alcove, high in the Marble Halls. From time to time, he popped his head above the crowd that surrounded him to acknowledge the greetings of men and women who had been friends in his Highbury days. Mostly, he looked earnest and eager as he spoke about the match that had just ebbed away. He still has the hungry look of a scavenger, but he was smiling, too, a smile that said he had just found a small corner of paradise.

Saturday was a good day for Graham. It did not matter that there were some half-hearted cries of "Judas" from the crowd that once adored him. He did not seem to care that one of the Arsenal fanzines had dedicated its front cover to a picture of him shaking hands with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, underneath the legend "Traitor" and the anguished question: "George, how could you?"

The majority of Arsenal supporters could not bring themselves to barrack the new manager of Spurs and concentrated instead on yelling out their support for Arsène Wenger. Graham does not need to be liked or adored and besides, the result of this North London derby gave him so much pleasure that he could barely contain his glee.

A 0-0 draw against the English champions, the team that he made great again, was like a double helping of treacle for him, a double compliment, a double tribute. With a Tottenham team that had a reputation for leaking soft goals before he arrived, it was an achievement to have withstood the barrage to which Arsenal had subjected his new charges.

At the other end, the back four that he had moulded in long hours of training-ground drilling stood firm, too, so that, by the end, both defences looked like mirror images of one another. For the grace and immoveability of Sol Campbell, so there was the authority and unshakeability of Tony Adams. "It gave me a great deal of satisfaction to see two teams that I have coached drawing nil-nil," Graham grinned.

Even if it was not the most inspiring of games, the encounter still somehow managed to act as 90 minutes of vindication for the George Graham way, 90 minutes of unstinting effort, of refusal to yield, of absolute determination not to let the opposition pass. It lacked a lot in creativity, but, in Tottenham's case at least, Graham is confident that that will come.

There was a hint of reconciliation in the air, too, despite the chants of the supporters. Graham revealed that he had shaken hands with David Dein and Daniel Fiszman for the first time since the Arsenal directors contributed to his exit from the club three years ago in the wake of the bung scandal in which Graham had become embroiled.

"That is all water under the bridge now," Graham said. "I haven't got any problem with any of it. It has been built up out of all proportion. I don't care about the fans' reaction. It is all part and parcel of the game these days, isn't it. Players have to put up with it when they go back to previous clubs and it is no different for me.

"I was just pleased that when Arsenal pounded away at us, we did not crack. I would be a fool to think I could win the championship with a side that just avoided relegation last season, but the big problem is getting new players of the quality we need.

"But the desire is already at the club. You saw it in their refusal to give in and there has already been an improvement in attitude. It is first class. That comes about from what we do on the training pitch and they are still prepared to learn. It is encouraging, but there is a long way to go."

Sugar seems to have developed already a healthy respect for Graham. He reached through the throng of reporters quizzing his manager after the game to shake him by the hand. "I'll speak to you later, guv'nor," he said.

The Tottenham players feel the same way; that much is obvious. They were outplayed by Arsenal without ever looking as though they would lose. They played conservatively, harrying and hassling the champions out of their stride.

Anderton, hardly the prototype of the tough-tackling midfield player, was everywhere, hounding the opposition. When Arsenal did make any sort of breakthrough, either the defenders or Espen Baardsen, the Norwegian goalkeeper, who is about to sign a new five-year contract, were equal to it.

His first save came in the seventh minute, when he flung himself to his left to push away a low drive from Petit and soon he was having to beat away a shot from Overmars, too, after the Dutchman, playing in attack, had skipped past Anderton on the edge of the area.

Anelka might have scored midway through the first half when he ran on to Keown's ball over the top of the Spurs defence, but the ball sat up awkwardly for him and his shot came off his shin rather than his right boot and flew tamely wide.

Iversen, who led the line tirelessly all afternoon, directed a rare Spurs breakaway five minutes later, slipping a tackle from Adams and unleashing a right-foot drive that was too close to Seaman and allowed the England goalkeeper to beat it away with his fists. Two minutes before half-time, it was Baardsen's turn to rescue Tottenham again when he made a reaction save to a volley by Anelka.

Parlour, who did not have one of his finest games, should have looped his header over Baardsen at the start of the second half, but elected instead to try to nod the ball on to the unsuspecting Wreh. In the 68th minute, Overmars spurned a scoring chance when Baardsen blocked his attempt to side-foot the ball past him.

That was their final opportunity. Arsenal should know by now that you have to take any chance you can get against one of Graham's sides. The longer that he is in charge of a club, the rarer they become.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, F Ljungberg (sub: C Wreh, 62min) — N Anelka (sub: L Boa Morte, 79), M Overmars.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): E Baardsen — J Scales, R Vega, S Campbell — S Carr, O Anderton, C Calderwood (sub: A Sinton, 78), A Nielsen, J Edinburgh — S Iversen, C Armstrong.
Referee: A Wilkie

'His smile said that he had just found a small corner of paradise'

Wright a host unto himself

WEST HAM UNITED 3
LEICESTER CITY 2
by Bill Edgar

IAN WRIGHT, triumphant, stood alone in the centre circle, milking the post-match applause. With most of his team-mates already in the tunnel, television's newest chat show host had an audience to himself again. Less than 24 hours after a series of *Friday Night's All Wright* had begun, he had shown Saturday afternoon could still be fine, too. In a week when Liverpool had decided that two men couldn't do one job, he had proved that one man could do two.

His television performance may need a little fine-tuning, but his footballing prowess continues to make compelling viewing. The speed and agility that belie his 35 years were a dominant feature of an outstanding West Ham United performance that took them above their opponents into sixth place in the FA Carling Premiership.

With Ullathorne man-marking Berkovic, Wright often dropped back to take on the Israel midfield player's creative role, notably in the 35th minute, when his through-pass found Kitson, who made the score 1-1. Earlier, the England striker's cheeky flick and sprint clear of Walsh ended with a chip shot that cleared the crossbar by inches.

His responsibilities may have increased with the acquisition of a talk show, but the prospect of Wright acquiring self-control remains as fanciful as Des O'Connor signing for West Ham United. A late lunge at Izzet earned a booking and suspension for the game against Tottenham Hotspur on November 28. Savage, the Leicester wing back, was the only other player booked in a wonderfully flowing match that perhaps reflected the relatively unstressful circumstances in which these clubs are operating. They are also led by managers whose positions appear to be as safe as any in the game.

Wright: man of two worlds

Part of Harry Redknapp's job security stems from West Ham's traditional reluctance to part with managers — he is only the eighth in their 96-year history — but his record is also excellent. His standing was improved further when second-half goals from long range by Lampard and Lomas, the latter's effort deflected in off Walsh, secured a victory that suggested his side could win a European place for the first time since the early Eighties. "I was delighted to come from behind to beat such a resolute side," Redknapp said.

Leicester's toughness might have brought them a point after their 1-0 lead through Izzet's 28th-minute goal had become a 3-1 deficit. The stature of Martin O'Neill, the City manager, strengthened during the attempt by Leeds United to capture him, will be no weaker for his first defeat in ten games. "We had a patched-up side, but we showed commendable spirit," O'Neill said.

The spirits of Kasey Keller, the unlucky Leicester goalkeeper, must have been sagging by Saturday evening. Beaten by a ball that spun like an off break against Leeds United in midweek, he saw a late inswinger from Lampard fly past him for West Ham's third goal. Three hours later, he failed to save penalties taken by a machine on *Noel's House Party*. Television stardom is clearly reserved for just one footballer at the moment.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, J Dicks — T Sinclair, S Lomas, F Lampard, M Keller — E Berkovic — I Wright, R Kitson (sub: J Moncur, 88min).
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-1-1): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, S Walsh — R Savage, N Lennon, R Ullathorne, G Parker (sub: S Campbell, 59), S Guppy — M Izzet (sub: A Cottee, 64) — G Fenton (sub: S Wilson, 68).
Referee: S Lodge.

Guileless Newcastle travelling in circles

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1
by George Caulkin

IN ONE of the most celebrated drawings by M. C. Escher, Ruud Gullit's favourite artist, a group of faceless individuals are viewed tramping up and down a never-ending staircase. In the words of the Newcastle United manager: "You can follow the figures and trace their steps going down stairs, only to come to a point above where they originally started." The picture, ironically, is entitled *Ascending and Descending*.

As a child, the piece captivated Gullit, who received an early grounding in the fine and graphic arts through his visits to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. "It was the mystery, the almost paranormal nature of those compositions that attracted me," he writes in his autobiography. "But then I've always been fascinated by the unknown." At the age of 36, he is drawn to it still.

After five consecutive and giddy years of ascent, Newcastle remain stubbornly, if not actively, in the descendant. Gullit has been in charge at St James' Park for 14 games and while he insists he sees a lot of improvements, there were signs on Saturday that it has been time spent travelling in circles. He has no new players and is still unsure as how to make best use of those already at his disposal.

To illustrate the point, Gullit dispensed with David Batty, the England midfield player, against Sheffield Wednesday. Batty's recent form has not maintained its usual consistency, but there was little doubt that it was a failed experiment. Within half an hour, it was aborted unceremoniously.

"All the time you are stuck between two points," Gullit said of his decision, which involved substituting Dietmar Hamann, the Germany international. "You want to attack, of course, but you also want to control the game. We scored the goal, but we were not in control. What do you do? I think it is better to control; when we did, there was no way they were going to score." Circles, always circles.

For the time being at least, the challenge appears too be insurmountable. The Newcastle squad is huge and bloated, yet there are too many players challenging for only two positions and most showed far less pride in their strip than the female streaker whose arrival solicited the one great roar of the afternoon. Then, despite Gullit's contention, Wednesday did score, Petter Rudi finding the goal via a deflection off Laurent Charvet and some defensive ineptitude.

Finally, there is the long and lingering case of Alan Shearer. The England captain did not reappear for the second half after tweaking a hamstring (an injury that prompted his withdrawal from the national squad yesterday) and, for ten minutes or so, the first played without Shearer during Gullit's tenure, there was suddenly space and fleet movement where before there had been only sterility backed up by the long ball. The sensation might have been transient — and if was — but it remained no less marked.

The dilemma facing Gullit was summarised neatly by a source of some weight. "You can't rely on one player, but Newcastle rely too much on Alan Shearer," Pavel Srnicek, the new Wednesday goalkeeper, said on his return to the club he left last season. "Des Walker handled him well and, when he hasn't got the ball, the others don't know what to do with it."

If all mounts up to a bit of a muddle, especially when considering that, in their past two matches, Newcastle have let slip an early advantage. On this occasion, it came after only four minutes, Paul Dalglish scoring his debut goal in the FA Carling Premiership after Srnicek spilled a shot by Warren Barton.

"I try in my prints to testify that we lie in a beautiful and orderly world, not in a chaos without norms, even though that is how it sometimes appears," Escher once said. As Gullit is discovering, artistic deconstruction can be a tricky business.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, L Charvet, A Hughes, A Griffin — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Hamann (sub: D Batty, 34min), G Speed — A Shearer (sub: A Andersson, 46), P Dalglish.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, D Sonner (sub: J Magilton, 57), W Jonk, P Rudi — A Booth, B Carbone (sub: R Humphreys, 65).
Referee: P Jones.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v DERBY COUNTY
Tonight, 8pm

Kevin McCarra

Eyes may moisten with more than sentiment when a pageant is staged tonight to celebrate Nottingham Forest's 100 years at the City Ground. Supporters might reminisce about Brian Clough and European Cup glories, but the recollection is also a reminder that it is now much harder for a club of Forest's size to prosper.

There is no scope for brooding, though. Success over Derby County would bring Forest only their third win in the FA Carling Premiership, but their capacity to achieve it is in question. Very little runs according to plan for them. The attempt to buy Joey Beauchamp, the Oxford United winger, for £800,000 had to be abandoned when he failed a medical, more evidence that frustrations follow Dave Bassett, the manager.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, will be without Carsley, Stimac and Delap, but there would have been little temptation to meddle greatly, having won at Anfield.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (probable, 4-4-2): D Beasant — L Matthieu, S Chettle, C Armstrong, A Rogers — S Stone, S Gemmill, C Bart-Williams, A Gray — P van Hooijdonk, M Harewood.
DERBY COUNTY (probable: 3-4-3): R Hoult — H Carbonari, J Laursen, S Elliott — R Kozluk, L Bohinen, D Powell, S Schnoor — K Harper, P Wanchope, D Burton.
Referee: G Barber.
WILLIAM HILL ODDS: Nottingham Forest 6-4, Derby County 6-4, Draw 11-5.
HILL PREDICTION: Draw.

Liverpool supporters accept the inevitable

LIVERPOOL 1
LEEDS UNITED 3
by Stephen Wood

ONE man, squirming in his seat in the main stand at Anfield, could barely contain his disgust. A large individual bearing an alarming resemblance to Buster Bloodvessel, the former pop star, his face turned red as obscenities spewed from his mouth, making for a sight only marginally more unattractive than Liverpool's latest capitulation.

He was conspicuous, too, but that owed more to the fact that he was alone in protesting at what he was seeing. No longer is the prospect of playing at Anfield a daunting one and on the whole the players, staff and supporters know it. Their anger is turning to apathy.

Phil Thompson, the assistant manager, was animated for 78 minutes on Saturday, but spent the remainder a forlorn figure. Even Gerard Houllier, the manager, admitted he was not surprised that, once Leeds United had pinched an equaliser, they strolled through for two more goals and a win that should have proved impossible.

"After they scored their first, I knew there would be dreadful consequences for us," Houllier said after his first match in sole control after the departure of Roy Evans. "It awakened some nightmares within us." Indeed, it became their third home defeat in a week, unthinkable for Liverpool sides of old.

It is fortunate that Houllier, a self-effacing man, will apply similar treatment to the imposters of success and failure. Success appears to be light years away, but Liverpool need to eschew hysteria to prevent failure from screwing them up. "I have psychological as well as footballing problems to deal with," Houllier said. "We are fragile mentally and that lack of confidence is difficult to put right. Even a goalless draw would have given us hope.

"We are showing deficiencies in certain positions as well. The defence is obviously a concern, but I have already stated that I would like to strengthen other areas of the team. I was pleased with the attitude of my players, but we were only strong for one hour and ten minutes."

This week, Houllier will begin the process of clearing the dead wood, perhaps encouraged that, below the first team, Liverpool is still strong. The stars of Anfield love their status, but their egos will not be tolerated for much longer.

As Thompson has noted, Houllier possesses a vast knowledge of players on the Continent and a contacts' book to match. It will, no doubt, be from there that he transforms the face of Liverpool, but, for a goalkeeper that they badly need, he might start closer to home, with a bid to lure Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa man, from the rumoured clutches of Manchester United.

Any possible renaissance will be in contrast to the development occurring at Leeds. David O'Leary, the manager, enjoyed his side's first away win of the season and said: "I am a young manager and I have a young team and we all feel very close, as though we are building something special. I do want to bring young British players through, however, and not rely on foreigners."

O'Leary's grand plan took shape rather more quickly than even he could have expected. After Robbie Fowler — so unfit and out of touch that he contributed little else — had given Liverpool the lead with a penalty, Alan Smith, the Leeds substitute, equalised with his second touch, a shot past James with 12 minutes remaining. Smith, 18, was only available because of the cancellation of an England Under-18 trip in Israel and it was his first appearance in senior football.

The equaliser followed another penalty appeal by Liverpool barely 30 seconds earlier, when Woodgate appeared to trip David Thompson. The home side were unhappy, too, that a foul by Hopkin went unnoticed before Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored to give Leeds an unlikely advantage. Hasselbaink added the third in 87 minutes with Liverpool players committed upfield.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — V Heggem, J Carragher, S Staunton, S Bjornebye — D Thompson, P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger — K Riedle (sub: D Leonhardsen, 69min), R Fowler.
LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3): N Martyn — J Woodgate, M Hiden, R Molenaar — G Halle, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, I Harte — C Wilnhard (sub: A Smith, 75), J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell.
Referee: D Gallagher.

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William HILL

TONIGHT'S 'LIVE' PREMIER ACTION
6/4 NOTT'M FOREST 11/5 DRAW DERBY 6/4
City Ground, Kick-off 8.00pm, Live on Sky.

CORRECT SCORE		
FOREST	SCORE TO BE	DERBY
7/1	1-0	7/1
10/1	2-0	10/1
9/1	2-1	9/1
25/1	3-0	25/1
20/1	3-1	20/1
25/1	3-2	25/1
8/1	0-0	8/1
11/2	1-1	11/2
14/1	2-2	14/1

Other scores on request.

HALF TIME / FULL TIME		
NOTT'M FOR.	NOTT'M FOR.	10/3
NOTT'M FOR.	DRAW	14/1
NOTT'M FOR.	DERBY	28/1
DRAW	NOTT'M FOR.	5/1
DRAW	DRAW	4/1
DRAW	DERBY	5/1
DERBY	NOTT'M FOR.	28/1
DERBY	DRAW	14/1
DERBY	DERBY	10/3

Bets void if match not completed

FIRST GOALSCORER	
5/1	V. HOOIJDONK (N)
6/1	FREEDMAN (N)
6/1	STURRIDGE (D)
6/1	WANCHOPE (D)
13/2	SHIPPERLEY (N)
8/1	HARPER (D)
14/1	STONE (N)
16/1	BOHINEN (D)
16/1	GEMMILL (N)
8/1	NO GOALSCORER

Other players on request. Own goals do not count.

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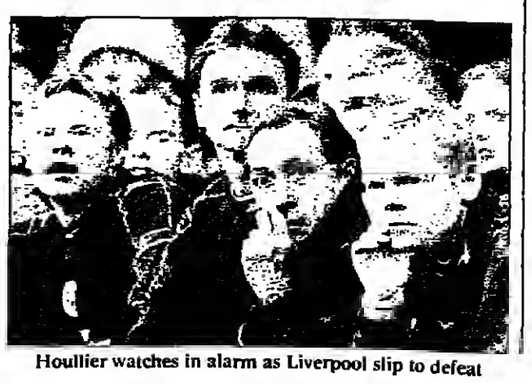
Houllier watches in alarm as Liverpool slip to defeat

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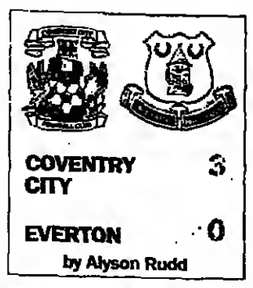
FA Carling Premiership: Coventry's demolition adds to Merseyside misery

Everton offer no case for their defence



COVENTRY CITY 3

EVERTON 0

by Alyson Rudd

THERE could be a moral in this comprehensive defeat for Everton. Coventry have now won both of their FA Carling Premiership games since the sale of Dion Dublin to Aston Villa. The whole club looked to Dublin for inspiration and the ability to turn games around, yet the results were disappointing. Without Dublin, it seems that the rest of the squad can express themselves — free at last from the cult of the totem.

Everton have their own idol in Duncan Ferguson, but a fat lot of good he's doing them. Maybe his colleagues would benefit from concentrating less on the big Scot and more on themselves.

Coventry did not play a canny nor a tactical match. Right from the whistle, they revealed their hand. They would look to play early balls and rely on pace. Everton ignored the ploy at the start, the middle and the end. The visitors were stretched beyond belief, but made no effort to tighten up. Towards the end, Marco Materazzi stood alone in his own half, torn as to which man in sky blue he should attempt to mark. By the very end, he did not seem to care any more.

Most among Gordon Strachan's side had a match they could be proud of. Early on, Roland Nilsson and Stephen Froggatt stood out. So often defenders are berated for putting safety first, but Nilsson continually looked to set a team-mate free. It was Nilsson who set up the opening Coventry goal after 17 minutes. The full back dispossessed Ibrahim Bakayoko, looked up and fed an exquisite ball through to Froggatt. Looking remarkably like the Road Runner cartoon character, he left the Everton defence bewildered as he unleashed a powerful left-footed drive from 20 yards.

Ten minutes earlier, Froggan had been in a similar position, but had opted to pass to the unmarked Darren Huckerby, but the striker wasted the chance.

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, maintained that he was far from unhappy with his team's performance. His main gripe, at least publicly, was with when the goals were conceded. "The timing of the goals has been difficult for us."

This is a difficult argument to sustain. Huckerby's miss gave Everton clear warning of what damage Froggatt could inflict and yet the Everton defence chose to ignore it. The first goal provided a clearer warning still, but it took Smith until the 78th minute to put Alex Cleland out of his misery. Froggatt had ran rings around him.

Still, Everton's best spell came after they went behind. Ferguson set up Tony Grant, but Magnus Hedman was equal to the effort and from Don Hutchison's corner, Ferguson headed just wide. An appallingly sloppy cross-field ball by Philippe Clement put Bakayoko clean through but the Ivory Coast striker did not appear overly keen to exploit the error and ran into a clutch of hastily assembled defenders. How long before Bakayoko stops being promising and actually delivers?

It was the first occasion that John Collins and Gary McAllister, fellow Scotland, internationals had played on opposite sides. Neither shone and both are some way off their best form. McAllister found himself in trouble inside his own penalty area and was hustled off the ball by Cleland, which presented Everton with perhaps their best chance of the game, but Hedman smothered Grant's close-range strike.

Everton did dominate midfield intermittently and they put Coventry's defence under pressure, but although there was a lot of last-ditch defending from the Coventry back four, it was top-notch last-ditch defending. When Bakayoko laid the ball off to Ferguson in their one display of unity, Paul Williams made a brave tackle to deny a shot.

Coventry were unfortunate not to double their goal tally before the interval. They ended the first half on a high with some breathtaking counterattacks, the most promising of which saw Huckerby's cross headed goalwards by Paul Telfer, cleared by David Unsworth and then volleyed by McAllister. Thomas Myhre parried the long-range strike.

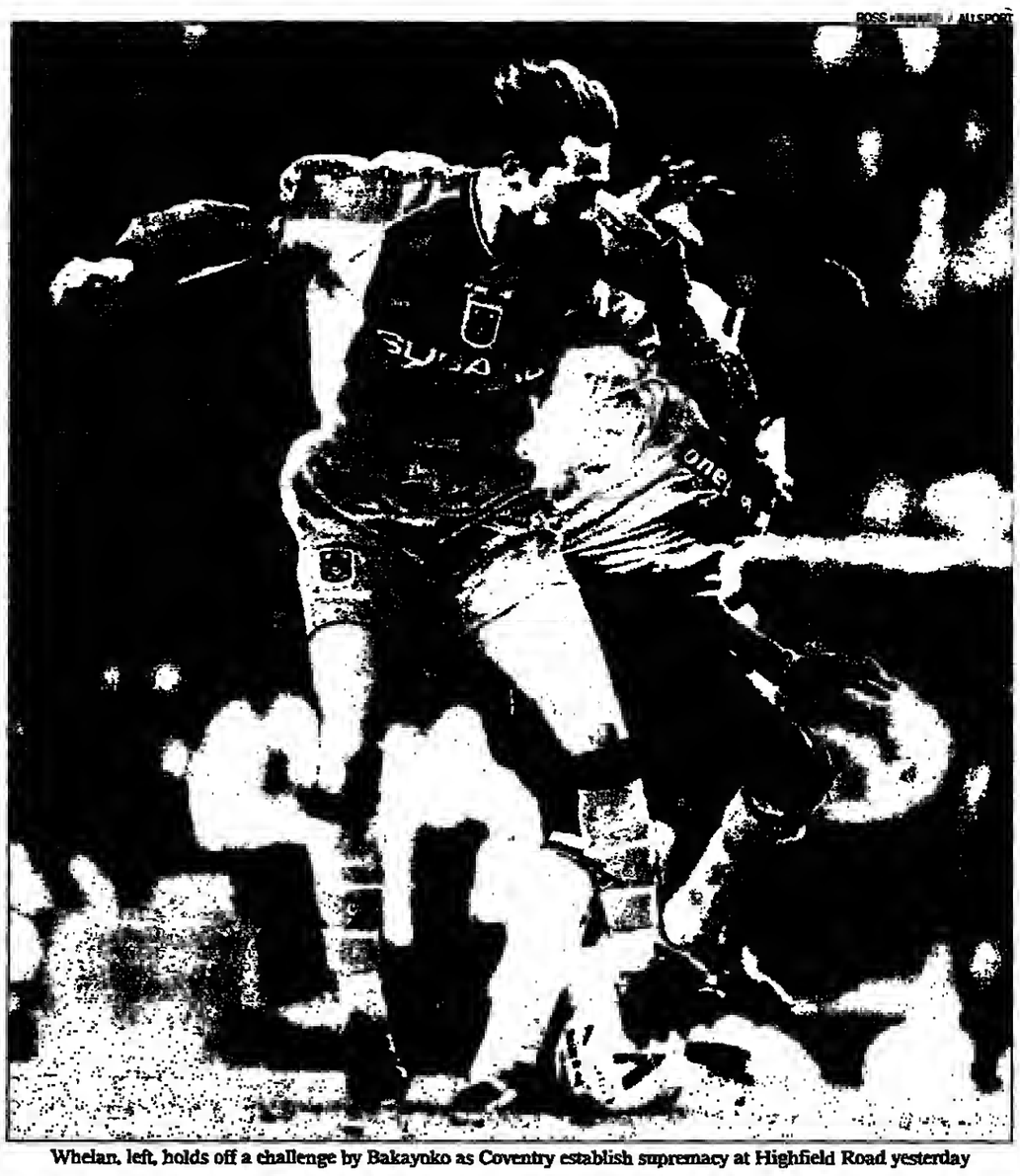
So, far from feeling aggrieved by the timing, Everton should have been experiencing some relief that they could regroup only one goal to the bad. Coventry did not allow them that luxury, however. Three minutes into the second half, the home side neatly passed the ball out of defence to Froggatt on the left wing. He spotted the centrally-placed Huckerby, who turned and fired past Myhre. This was confident stuff, not lucky. Coventry combined pace with intelligence.

Everton, though, are not the whipping boys of the Premiership and went ten games undefeated when Smith took charge. Yet yesterday they looked as if they had never played real-time football before. And, to be honest, by the end they looked as if they never wanted to play again.

It could so easily have been five or even six-nil. Noel Whelan had experienced a relatively quiet game so the Everton defence chose to ignore him completely. In that context Whelan was guilty of a very bad miss indeed after Telfer's cross found him in acres of space and if only Huckerby had spotted him — so isolated it was laughable — Everton would have been further punished.

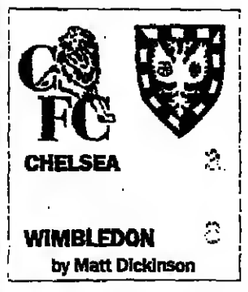
However, in the 89th minute Whelan did score. Froggatt exchanged passes with Clement and then crossed to Huckerby, whose shot was blocked by Unsworth. Whelan buried the rebound.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, P Williams, R Shaw, M Edworthy — P Telfer, G McAllister, P Clement, S Froggatt — D Huckerby, N Whelan.
EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, M Materazzi, D Unsworth — A Cleland (J Milligan, 78min), J Collins, D Hutchison, A Grant, M Bell — I Bakayoko (sub: D Cadamarteri, 57), D Ferguson.
Referee: G Poll



Whelan, left, holds off a challenge by Bakayoko as Coventry establish supremacy at Highfield Road yesterday

Flo show gives Vialli no choice



CHELSEA 3

WIMBLEDON 0

by Matt Dickinson

AS Gianluca Vialli gushed forth on the unparalleled merits of Tore Andre Flo, variously describing him as one of the best forwards in the world and a Chelsea legend in the making, there was one question that went unasked: "So why haven't you blinking well been picking him?" When, on Saturday, Vialli did at last pick Flo for his first start of the FA Carling Premiership season, it coincided — surprise, surprise — with Chelsea's most effective and efficient display thus far. Memo to Chelsea manager: pick him again.

Of course, Vialli has to persevere with the Norwegian because Pierluigi Casiraghi remains in hospital with bits of his thigh sewn into his shattered knee joint. The Italian may have failed to make much impression on opposition defences in the 15 appearances before his injury, but his inability to score had clearly not detracted from his popularity among his colleagues, who held aloft one of his shirts after Gianfranco Zola's opening goal.

"That was not just because we wanted to show off, but because a team-mate is having a bad time," Zola said. "We knew he was down and we wanted to show we are close to him."

While it was a touching gesture of remembrance for the stricken striker, one could not help but wonder when it would be Flo's name that was being paraded around Stamford Bridge. Perhaps the gangly striker is still regarded as a fringe member of this Chelsea squad because he was signed for a paltry £200,000 and does not whinge about rotation policies.

The idea that he is just a young prospect with skills to learn is a laughable one, given that he is a 25-year-old with 60 appearances for Chelsea to his name, albeit more than half as substitute, and, on Saturday, he produced another marvellous display of diligent running, clever link-play and impeccable control — everything, in fact, apart from a goal, although he was only the width of a post away in the first half, when he twisted away from Chris Perry, his marker, as he did throughout the match.

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Instead, the leggy striker had to be content with setting up the goals for others. All three were finished with wonderful composure, the unerring ease with which they appeared to be placed past Neil Sullivan underlining the inequality between the clubs. Chelsea could have won by six, but ultimately had two sweeping finishes from Zola and Poyet and a nonchalant third from Petrescu to show for their domination.

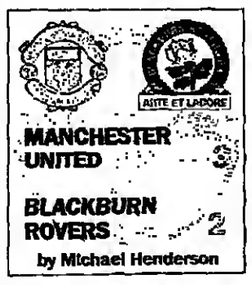
Rarely have Wimbledon looked so lacking in threat, but that was more down to Chelsea's strength than any weakness on their part. Joe Kinnear's side have always managed to intimidate their London rivals — remember Vinnie Jones scything into Ruud Gullit — but it is harder when Marcel Desailly is in opposition and the Frenchman comfortably extinguished Wimbledon's aerial threat.

The victory was emphatic enough for Vialli to be asked whether he thought he had genuine championship contenders in his dressing room. "Yes," he replied, "although, in football, as soon as you get happy, you get humbled."

The only doubts over Chelsea's challenge concern Celestine Babayaro, who is average at both defending and attacking, and the lack of a defensive midfield player. Up front, one has to wonder whether Flo will use his extended run in the side to add the goals that will transform him from a good player into a great one. It is an intriguing question and at least now we will find out the answer.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — B Lambourde, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, G Poyet (sub: M Duberry, 80min), R Di Matteo (sub: J Morris, 85), C Babayaro — G Zola (sub: M Nicholls, 80), T A Flo.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, B Thatcher, A Kimble (sub: D Blackwell, 67) — M Hughes (sub: E Ekoku, 67), A Roberts, R Earle, M Kennedy — M Gayle (sub: C Leaburn, 57), G Ainsworth.
Referee: J Winter.

United nearly made to pay high price for energy savings



MANCHESTER UNITED 3

BLACKBURN ROVERS 2

by Michael Henderson

FOR half an hour on Saturday afternoon, Manchester United played pretty much like champions. They passed the ball so well that Blackburn Rovers could barely get a kick, scored two good goals and their football made a pleasant autumn day even more agreeable. Yet they ended up beating ten men with only one goal to spare. What was the matter?

Too much confidence, for one thing. Nobody expected Blackburn to score in a month of Sundays, not with Davies and Blake groping around like trussed-up bears, so one can forgive United a teeny bit for dropping their guard. Did Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, really pay £12 million for that pair? Davies has yet to score for the club and the corpulent Blake looks out of his depth at this level, which is why he cost "only" £4.5 million. Your witness, Mr Porter. "Day's night today, and black's white today . . ."

United lacked a competitive edge, too. When a team goes 3-0 up inside an hour and the opposing captain has been dismissed, players find it easy to nod off. United's were obviously thinking about saving energy for more awkward matches. There isn't much glory in rattling in goals against ten men.

The dismissal of Sherwood, three minutes into the second half, for raising his elbow at Beckham after what Hodgson called "an extremely minor incident", ultimately cost Blackburn dear. He did not query his captain's punishment, but, in choosing not to amplify his remarks, Hodgson offered, ever so gently, a covert commentary on events.

"Players do what they do," he said. Indeed, they do. Those five words may be the saddest spoken all year by a football man — "a realistic football man", in his own estimation. Even though Sherwood raised his elbow towards Beckham, it was not clear whether he struck him in the face. Beckham collapsed all the same as if a high-class heavyweight had caught him with a sidewinder.

The pretty boy with the floppy hairdo has had to endure a lot of gratuitous abuse in the past year or two and, to some extent, one sympathises with him. It was hard to sympathise this time. If rugby players went down every time that opponents touched them, or threatened to touch them, there would be nobody left on the pitch by half-time. Footballers, poor dears, are made of flimsier stuff.

One could write all day about the sharp practice of footballers. Better, in this instance, to concentrate on what United did well in that opening period. At all times, they sought to pass the ball and, though it took some time for them to find the necessary rhythm, they are never hard to watch. In the slippery, scheming Yorke, they had the most influential player on the field.

Scholes scored the first of his two goals when Yorke delivered a pass of exactly the right weight and Yorke then completed a gorgeous move by shooting in the second. The two players combined for the third goal, finished by Scholes's raking shot 14 minutes into the second half, when the game had taken on the appearance of a rout.

By punishing sloppy marking and sloppy thinking, Marcolin and Blake retrieved two goals for Blackburn and United sent on Keane to restore some order. The scoreline was absurd, given the overall shape of the game, and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was right to denounce his team's carelessness, while praising Blackburn for their tenacity.

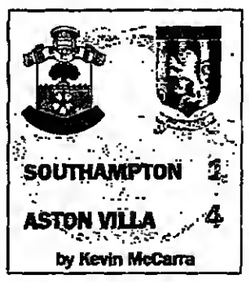
At a time when most managers are winding down, Ferguson is in the remarkable position of winding up. The emergence of another team at Old Trafford is a tribute to his expertise and the recent signing of Yorke, who has already scored ten goals, has brought a new dimension to United's play — or rather, restored an old one.

Alas, Cole continues to let them down. He should have scored twice in the first half, hitting the post when Filan was on the floor and heading straight at the goalkeeper from a good position, and his lack of football nous is embarrassing in a team of clear minds. Talk of an England place is daft.

Villa may be top, for the time being, and Arsenal are champions on merit, but United are the best team in the country, as well as the most watchable. They have high-class players in key positions and are well covered. If only they had a more constant striker to play alongside Yorke, one could say that they had a team to terrify Europe.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — P Neville, J Stam, G Neville, J Curtis — D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes (sub: J Cruyff, 63min; sub: R Keane, 82), J Blomqvist (sub: O G Solskjaer, 65) — D Yorke, A Cole.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filan — J Kenna, D Peacock, S Henchoz, C Davidson (sub: G Croft 55) — D Johnson, T Sherwood, C Dailly, D Duff (sub: D Marcolin, 52) — K Davies (sub: K Gallacher, 78), N Blake
Referee: M Reed

Gregory raises expectations in the wake of Villa's victory party



SOUTHAMPTON 2

ASTON VILLA 4

by Kevin McCarra

JOHN GREGORY could not decide whether he was party animal or member of the ooise abatement society. At the full-time whistle, he joined his players in their frolic on the field at The Dell. A little later, he was apologising for any conduct unbecoming in an Aston Villa manager. After a few minutes of further reflection, there was a change of heart and Gregory upheld his own boisterousness.

Villa are unbeaten in 12 matches, the best start to a league season in their history, so why should there not be an interlude of capering on the turf? That line of argument did not satisfy him for long. In due course, Gregory reflected that the real entitlement to revels lay with a person like Alex Ferguson, his counterpart at Manchester United, who has guided the Old Trafford team to the title in four of the past six seasons.

Scattered thoughts are expected in the early evening of a Saturday. A manager's mind has been racing all afternoon and sparks are bound to fly as he starts to apply the brakes. Nonetheless, Gregory was also engaged in a serious debate with himself. He and the club have reached the stage where they must decide what they will regard as success.

Considered on its own, there was much satisfaction in the defeat of Southampton, with Dion Dublin, in his second match for Villa, scoring a hat-trick to add to the two goals he snatched on his debut last weekend. The side's run of form is also worth a few smirks. These are pleasures to be savoured by the squad and its supporters.

That ought not to be sufficient. With only one championship since the First World War, Villa, the dominant force in the second-largest city in Britain, have been peculiarly prone to leading a life of seclusion. The episodes when they throw their weight around and barge rivals aside have been too rare. For that reason, Gregory is attempting to reprogramme the attitudes of the club and of himself. Instead of hoping to challenge for the title, Villa ought to expect it of themselves.

More impressive than the margin of victory on Saturday was the economy with which it was achieved. Dublin barely had four chances, perversely wasting one of the simpler ones. In general, Villa were vindictive and exercised a zeal for punishment that was reminiscent of the brutal beadmasters of England's public schools, a century ago.

Dublin headed the first from a cross by Steve Watson, sending the ball skipping low into the corner of the net. He struck again, after a searching run from Lee Hendrie, by gathering possession and bending a shot round Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, from the edge of the area.

Merson proved to be just as accurate from the same range, having taken a low cross from Collymore in a move that was piercing in its stark efficiency. Dublin completed his hat-trick five minutes from the end, when possession fell to him in the goalmouth after Ugo Ehiogu had challenged for Hendrie's corner.

Despite the eventual devastation, Southamptoo had been in good shape for a while. There had been an equaliser from Matt Le Tissier, in the 53th minute, when he first moved to his right and then twisted round to double back to the middle of the penalty area, evading Gareth Southgate in the process, before piloting home a left-footed shot. Briefly, the élan of n all animated Southampton and left Villa dejected. In that period, Ehiogu scythed an attempted clearance against his own crossbar.

Dave Jones's side could have held the lead at that point, but, for the most part, they trudged far behind Villa. Southampton have conceded 16 goals at home this season in the FA Carling Premiership and less damage has been sustained in away games. The desire to attack at The Dell is serving only to expose grave shortcomings that exist in their central defence that will have to be addressed if there is to be any hope of avoiding relegation.

Tough questions of a different sort lie ahead for Villa, but, for the time being, Gregory's side are the men with all the answers.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — S Hiley, K Monkou, C Lundekvam (sub: J Beattie, 46min), F Benali — S Ripley, J Dodd, C Palmer, M Oakley — M Le Tissier (sub: A Williams, 75), E Ostenstad.
ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry — S Watson, I Taylor, L Hendrie, A Wright — P Merson (sub: J Joachim, 83) — S Collymore (sub: M Draper, 78), D Dublin.
Referee: N Barry.

Hendrie, of Villa, belies fragile looks by shrugging off two tacklers

Gascoigne the king of wishful thinking

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1

MIDDLESBROUGH 1

by Peter Robinson

WISHFUL thinking is as much a part of football as chips outside the ground and baiting the ref. It is as if there are two games, played side by side, one destined for the record books and one for a volume that begins: "What if?"

What if the Munich air crash had never happened? What if England had beaten Poland at Wembley in '73? What if George Best had been ambitious instead of a hedonist? You can while away hour after happy hour in the pub debating it all, knowing that the supply of hypotheticals will never dry up.

What if there was a British national team? What if Heysel had never happened? What if Paul Gascoigne . . . ah, there is a entire chapter of them devoted to him. What if Roger Milford had sent him off in the 1991 Cup Final for trying to decapitate Garry Parker just before that mad lunge at Gary Charles that mangled his knee? What if his genius for self-destruction had been a gift for, say, macramé? What if he wasn't so damned unlucky?

Nobody will ever know and so, for all his magic and magnificence, Gascoigne will probably be remembered at The Queen's Head as another of those mavericks who never quite capitalised on their talent. Len Shackleton, Jim Baxter, even Best himself. You wonder if that, more than anything, is what troubles Gascoigne now.

He can still turn it on, as any natural showman can, but the good days are not as frequent or extraordinary as they once were. At The Dell, nine days ago, he was superb; at The Valley, on Saturday, he was peripheral. After one delicious early pass that Brian Deane was too dozy to collect, he received a sharp blow on the calf and that was pretty much that.

He fiddled with his boots, rubbed his leg a lot, conceded a stupid penalty and was substituted at half-time. Keith Jones, an archetype of the model pro, became the hero of the day for a hugely effective man-marking job, but Gascoigne in his pomp would surely have danced around him with barely a second glance. It all made talk of an England recall look premature, at best.

Without Gascoigne to conduct it, the game was a tuneless affair, long on vigour, short of virtuosity. Kinsella and Ilic turned up for Charlton Athletic. Fifa having bent is own rules to let them play, and, at the break, their presence seemed to be paying off. Charlton had gone ahead when Gascoigne, clearly frustrated and right in front of the referee, kicked Jones after they had challenged for a header. Mendonca converted the penalty for his sixth goal of the season.

After half-time, Middlesbrough fought back and Stamp, Gascoigne's replacement, equalised with a header. A would-be late winner by Hunt was ruled out for a push and Jones could have won a penalty when he was pulled down, but a draw was fair enough. What would have happened if Gascoigne had been on song? Well, get them in and let's talk about it.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Ilic — R Rufus, E Youds, C Tiler — D Mills (sub: N Redfearn, 60min), J Robinson, M Kinsella, K Jones, C Powell — C Mendonca (sub: S Jones, 72), A Hunt.
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, S Vickers, G Festa — C Fleming, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub: P Stamp, 45), A Townsend, D Gordon — B Deane (sub: M Beck, 79), H Ricard.
Referee: M Riley.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (0) 0
38,278
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, A Adams, F Ljungberg (sub: C Wreh, 62min), N Anelka (sub: L Boa Morte, 79), M Overmars, M Keown, R Parlour, E Petit.
Booked: Winterburn.
Tottenham Hotspur: E Baardsen, S Carr, C Calderwood (sub: A Sinton, 78min), A Nielsen, D Anderton, C Armstrong, J Edinburgh, R Vega, J Scales, S Iversen, S Campbell.
Booked: Nielsen, Armstrong.
Referee: A Wilkie.

CHARLTON (1) 1 MIDDLESBRO (0) 1
Mendonca 37 (pen) — Stamp 74
20,043
Charlton Athletic: S Ilic, R Rufus, E Youds, C Tiler, D Mills (sub: N Redfearn, 60min), J Robinson, M Kinsella, K Jones, C Powell, C Mendonca (sub: S Jones, 72), A Hunt.
Booked: Robinson, S Jones.
Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, C Cooper, S Vickers, G Festa, C Fleming, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub: sub: P Stamp, 45), A Townsend, D Gordon, B Deane (sub: M Beck, 79), Y H Ricard.
Booked: Gascoigne.
Referee: M Riley.

CHELSEA (1) 3 WIMBLEDON (0) 0
Zola 32, Poyet 55, Petrescu 70 — 34,757
Chelsea: E de Goey, B Lambourde, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux, D Petrescu, G Poyet (sub: M Duberry 80min), R di Matteo (sub: J Morris, 85), C Babayaro, G Zola (sub: M Nicholls 80), T Flo.
Booked: Le Saux.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble (sub: D Blackwell, 67min), Perry, Thatcher, Earle, Roberts, Gayle (sub: Leaburn, 67), Hughes (sub: Ekoku, 67), Kennedy, Ainsworth.
Booked: Hughes, Roberts, Earle.
Referee: J Winter.

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 LEEDS (0) 3
Fowler 68 (pen) — Smith 79, Hasselbaink 81, 86
44,305
Liverpool: D James, V Heggem, J Carragher, S Staunton, S I Bjornebye, D Thompson, P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger, K H Riedle (sub: O Leonhardsen, 69 min), R Fowler.
Booked: Thompson, Bjornebye.
Leeds United: N Martyn, J Woodgate, M Hiden, R Molenaar, G Halle, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, I Harte, C Wijnhard (sub: A Smith, 75), J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell.
Booked: Hiden, Bowyer, Smith.
Referee: D Gallagher.

MAN UTD (2) 3 BLACKBURN (0) 2
Scholes 32, 58, Yorke 44 — Marcolin 65, Blake 74
55,198
Sent off: T Sherwood (Blackburn) 48
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, P Neville, J Stam, G Neville, J Curtis, D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes (sub: J Cruyff 63min, R Keane 82), J Blomqvist (sub: O Solskjaer 66), D Yorke, A Cole.
Booked: Scholes, Stam.
Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J Kenna, D Peacock, S Henchoz, C Davidson (sub: G Croft 55min), D Johnson, T Sherwood, C Dailly, D Duff (sub: D Marcolin 52), K Davies (sub: K Gallacher 78), N Blake.
Booked: Davies, Johnson, Henchoz.
Referee: M Reed.

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1
Dalglish 4 — Rudi 80
36,698
Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, L Charvet, A Hughes, A Griffin, K Gillespie, R Lee, D Hamann (sub: D Batty, 34min), G Speed, A Shearer (sub: A Andersson, 46), P Dalglish.
Booked: Hamann, Barton, Batty.
Sheffield Wednesday: P Srnicek, P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe, N Alexandersson, D Sonner (sub: J Magilton, 57), W Jonk, P Rudi, A Booth, B Carbone (sub: R Humphreys, 65).
Booked: Sonner.
Referee: P Jones.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 A VILLA (1) 4
Le Tissier 53 — Dublin 3, 56, 85, Merson 77
15,242
Southampton: P Jones, S Hiley, K Monkou, C Lundekvam (sub: J Beattie, 46min), F Benali, S Ripley, J Dodd, C Palmer, M Oakley, M Le Tissier (sub: A Williams, 75), E Ostenstad.
Booked: Le Tissier.
Aston Villa: M Oakes, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry, S Watson, I Taylor, L Hendrie, A Wright, P Merson (sub: J Joachim, 83), S Collymore (sub: M Draper, 78), D Dublin.
Booked: Collymore.
Referee: N Barry.

WEST HAM (1) 3 LEICESTER (1) 2
Kitson 37, Lomas 56, Lampard 78 — Izzet 28, Lampard 87 (og)
25,642
West Ham United: S Hislop, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, J Dicks, T Sinclair, S Lomas, F Lampard, M Keller, E Berkovic, I Wright, R Kitson (sub: J Moncur, 88min).
Booked: Wright.
Leicester City: K Keller, F Sinclair, M Elliott, S Walsh, R Savage, N Lennon, R Ullathorne, G Parker (sub: S Campbell, 89), S Guppy, M Izzet (sub: A Cottee 64), G Fenton (sub: S Wilson, 68).
Booked: Savage.
Referee: S Lodge.

Yesterday

COVENTRY (1) 3 EVERTON (0) 0
Froggatt 15, Huckerby 48, Whelan 89 — 19,290
Coventry: M Hedman, R Nilsson, P Williams, R Shaw, M Edworthy, P Telfer, G McAllister, P Clement, S Froggatt, D Huckerby, N Whelan.
Booked: Huckerby.
Everton: T Myhre, C Short, M Materazzi, D Unsworth, A Cleland (J Milligan 78 min), J Collins, D Hutchison, T Grant, M Ball, I Bakayoko (D Cadamarteri 57), D Ferguson.
Booked: Unsworth, Bakayoko, Materazzi.
Referee: G Poll

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Empoli 2 Cagliari 1, Internazionale 3 Sampdoria 0; AC Parma 4 Udinese 1; Piacenza 4 Fiorentina 2, *AS Roma 2 Juventus 0; Salernitana 2 Perugia 0, Venezia 2 Lazio 0; Vicenza 0 Bologna 4*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	9	6	0	3	19	11	18
AS Roma	8	5	2	2	17	8	17
Juventus	9	5	2	2	12	9	17
AC Parma	9	4	4	1	11	4	16
* AC Milan	8	4	2	2	14	10	14
Internazionale	9	4	2	3	17	14	14
Lazio	9	3	4	2	15	11	13
Bologna	8	3	4	2	11	8	13
Cagliari	9	3	2	4	18	14	11
Piacenza	9	3	2	4	15	13	11
* Bari	8	2	5	1	9	8	11
Perugia	9	3	2	4	12	15	11
Sampdoria	9	3	2	4	10	18	11
Udinese	8	2	4	3	12	16	10
Empoli	9	2	3	4	7	13	9
Vicenza	8	2	3	4	7	14	9
Salernitana	9	2	1	6	6	15	7
Venezia	8	1	2	8	4	13	6

** Does not include last night's late match*

GERMAN LEAGUE: Wolfsburg 2 Hertha Berlin 1; *Bayer Leverkusen 3 FC Nurnberg 0; Borussia Dortmund 3 Schalke 04 0;* Hamburg 0 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Bayern Munich 2 VfB Stuttgart 0, MSV Duisburg 2 VfL Bochum 0; Werder Bremen 0 Kaiserslautern 1, Hansa Rostock 1 Borussia Mönchengladbach 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	12	10	1	1	32	10	31
Bayer Leverkusen	13	7	5	1	29	14	26
FC Kaiserslautern	13	7	3	3	20	22	24
1860 Munich	12	7	2	3	24	16	23
VfL Wolfsburg	13	5	5	3	25	18	20
Borussia Dortmund	12	5	4	3	18	12	18
Hamburger SV	12	4	5	3	16	14	17
Hertha Berlin	13	5	2	8	17	16	17
VfL Bochum	13	5	2	6	17	18	17
VfB Stuttgart	13	4	4	5	17	18	16
Eintracht Frankfurt	13	4	4	5	18	20	16
SC Freiburg	12	3	6	3	15	16	15
MSV Duisburg	13	3	6	4	15	20	15
FC Nuremberg	13	2	7	4	17	25	13
Schalke 04	12	2	5	5	11	20	11
Hansa Rostock	13	2	4	7	18	28	10
Werder Bremen	12	1	4	7	14	20	7
Mönchengladbach	12	1	3	8	16	35	6

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 1 Celta 2; Deportivo Coruna 2 Alaves 2; Valladolid 1 Mallorca 0, Barcelona 4 Tenerife 1 Athletic Bilbao 3 Oviedo 5; Betis 1 Real Sociedad 0; Zaragoza 0 Espanol 3; Racing Santander 4 Salamanca 1, Extremadura 1 Valencia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celta Vigo	10	5	5	0	20	9	20
Barcelona	10	5	4	1	20	11	19
Mallorca	10	5	4	1	12	4	19
Real Madrid	10	5	3	2	22	15	18
Valencia	10	5	0	5	16	12	15
Valladolid	10	4	3	3	10	8	15
Real Oviedo	10	4	3	3	15	15	15
Racing Santander	10	4	3	3	14	14	15
Zaragoza	10	5	0	5	16	17	15
*Atletico Madrid	8	4	2	2	14	11	14
Deportivo Coruna	10	3	5	2	12	10	14
Espanol	10	3	3	4	12	12	12
Real Sociedad	10	3	3	4	14	17	12
Salamanca	10	3	2	5	9	17	11
Real Betis	10	3	2	5	6	14	11
Tenerife	10	2	4	4	15	18	10
Athletic Bilbao	10	3	1	6	16	20	10
Alaves	10	2	3	5	7	12	9
Extremadura	10	2	2	6	6	18	8
*Villarreal	9	1	4	4	11	14	7

** Does not include last night's late match*

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Academica 2 Boavista 3; Amadora 1 Guimaraes 1; Campomaiorense 0 FC Porto 2; Beira Mar 0 Farense 1; Chaves 1 Leiria 2; Rio Ave 2 Maritimo 1, Setubal 3 Salgueiros 0; Benfica 4 Braga 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Vitesse Arnhem 2 Utrecht 0; RKC Waalwijk 5 Sparta Rotterdam 1, Feyenoord 4 Fortuna Sittard 1 Graafschap Doetinchem 2 Roda JC Kerkrade 3, MVV Maastricht 2 AZ Alkmaar 1, NEC Nijmegen 2 Twente Enschede 2

FRENCH LEAGUE: Bastia 3 Monaco 1, Bordeaux 0 Sochaux 0; Marseille 1 Lens 0; Metz 1 Nantes 0; Montpellier 3 Auxerre 0; Rennes 0 Lyon 0, Toulouse 1 AS Nancy 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: FC Bruges 3 Charleroi 2; Ekeren 2 Kortrijk 1, Harelbeke 2 Ostend 1, St Truiden 2 Genk 2 Westerlo 0 Beveren 0, Excelsior Mouscron 3 Eendracht Aalst 1; Lommel 0 Ghent 1, Lokeren 2 Lierse 0.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 A Villa	12	5	1	0	11	4	3	3	0	7	2	28	+12
2 Man Utd	12	5	2	0	18	8	2	2	1	6	5	25	+15
3 Arsenal	13	4	3	0	10	2	2	3	1	4	3	24	+9
4 Chelsea	11	4	2	0	10	3	1	3	1	7	7	20	+7
5 Leeds	13	3	2	1	8	2	1	6	0	10	8	20	+6
6 West Ham	13	3	3	1	10	8	2	2	2	6	7	20	+1
7 Middlesbro	13	2	4	0	10	5	2	3	2	11	11	16	+5
6 Derby	12	2	3	1	6	4	2	2	2	6	8	17	+2
6 Leicester	13	3	2	1	7	4	1	3	3	6	6	17	0
10 Wimbledon	13	2	3	1	10	8	2	2	3	7	14	17	-5
11 Charlton	13	2	3	1	12	6	1	4	2	6	11	16	+3
12 Liverpool	13	2	3	2	13	10	2	1	3	7	7	18	+8
13 Newcastle	13	3	2	2	10	9	1	2	3	6	8	16	-1
14 Tottenham	13	2	2	2	9	12	2	2	3	7	6	16	-5
15 Coventry	13	3	1	3	8	9	1	1	4	4	6	14	-6
16 Sheff Wed	13	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	5	6	11	12	-3
17 Everton	13	0	4	2	1	5	2	2	3	6	9	12	-7
18 Blackburn	13	2	1	3	9	6	0	2	5	5	12	8	-6
16 Nottm F	12	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	4	6	13	9	-10
20 Southmptn	13	1	2	4	9	16	0	2	4	1	14	7	-20

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Sunderland	18	6	2	0	22	3	5	5	0	20	6	40	(42)
2 Ipswich	18	6	1	2	14	4	4	4	1	12	8	35	(26)
3 Watford	19	4	4	1	11	8	5	1	4	20	19	32	(31)
4 Birmingham	19	4	4	2	13	8	5	1	3	12	9	32	(25)
5 Bradford	19	6	2	1	24	8	3	2	4	10	12	31	(34)
6 Sheff Utd	19	6	3	1	19	13	2	3	4	12	15	30	(31)
7 Wolvrhmptn	19	5	3	1	13	7	3	2	5	14	11	29	(27)
6 Norwich	17	4	4	0	18	8	4	1	4	11	18	29	(27)
6 Huddersfld	19	6	3	0	17	6	2	2	8	9	20	29	(26)
10 West Brom	16	6	0	4	23	16	2	3	3	13	17	27	(38)
11 C Palace	16	7	1	1	23	10	1	1	5	5	18	26	(28)
12 Grimsby	18	5	4	1	17	6	2	1	5	6	13	26	(23)
13 Bolton	17	5	3	2	19	13	1	4	2	14	16	25	(33)
14 Stockport	16	2	5	2	12	11	2	5	2	11	13	22	(23)
15 Tranmere	16	2	4	3	11	11	2	5	2	12	15	21	(23)
18 Port Vale	19	4	0	6	9	16	2	3	4	12	16	21	(21)
17 Bury	19	5	2	2	10	6	0	4	8	4	14	21	(14)
18 Swindon	19	4	3	2	20	15	1	2	7	7	18	20	(27)
19 Barnsley	19	3	4	3	14	13	1	4	4	6	14	20	(22)
20 Portsmth	19	3	2	4	14	12	1	4	5	13	20	16	(27)
21 QPR	18	3	3	2	6	5	2	0	6	9	22	16	(17)
22 Oxford Utd	19	3	3	3	15	11	1	2	7	5	22	17	(20)
23 Bristol City	19	2	3	4	18	23	1	3	6	11	21	15	(27)
24 Crewe	18	2	2	5	11	19	0	3	8	8	18	11	(19)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Stoke	16	6	1	1	13	5	6	0	4	14	10	37	(27)
2 Fulham	16	5	2	1	15	7	8	1	1	11	5	38	(26)
3 Walsall	16	6	2	2	16	10	5	0	3	12	13	35	(28)
4 Preston	17	5	2	2	21	9	4	3	1	11	6	32	(32)
5 Gillingham	18	6	2	2	18	6	1	6	1	10	10	29	(28)
8 Chestrfld	16	6	0	1	16	4	0	4	3	1	6	28	(17)
7 Man City	16	4	3	2	13	8	3	3	3	10	10	27	(23)
8 Luton	18	5	1	1	9	2	3	2	4	12	14	27	(21)
8 Millwall	18	4	4	1	11	6	3	1	5	7	14	26	(16)
10 Blackpool	17	4	1	3	14	11	3	3	3	10	12	25	(24)
11 Bournemth	16	4	3	0	13	5	2	3	4	11	14	24	(24)
12 Wigan	17	4	1	3	13	6	3	1	5	9	12	23	(22)
13 Reading	17	3	5	1	12	6	3	0	5	6	16	23	(20)
14 Bristol R	16	5	3	2	17	11	0	3	5	4	11	21	(21)
15 Notts Co	17	3	2	3	10	9	2	4	3	10	12	21	(20)
16 Wrexham	16	5	3	3	14	12	0	3	4	3	12	21	(17)
17 York	17	2	4	2	11	10	3	1	5	11	20	20	(22)
16 Burnley	16	4	3	2	10	9	1	2	6	11	16	20	(21)
19 Colchester	17	3	2	3	6	6	2	3	4	10	13	20	(16)
20 Macclsfld	18	2	2	4	6	8	2	4	4	10	15	18	(16)
21 Northmptn	16	1	6	1	10	10	2	2	6	7	11	17	(17)
22 Wycombe	18	3	2	5	12	11	0	3	5	4	14	14	(16)
23 Oldham	18	2	2	5	8	13	1	2	8	6	15	13	(14)
24 Lincoln	17	2	0	8	11	18	1	2	6	5	16	11	(16)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Halifax	18	5	3	1	16	10	4	2	3	11	6	32	(27)
2 Rotherham	16	5	3	2	19	6	4	1	3	18	15	31	(37)
3 Cardiff	17	6	1	3	8	8	3	3	1	10	6	31	(19)
4 Brentford	16	7	0	1	19	7	3	0	5	12	16	30	(31)
5 Scunthrpe	16	6	1	2	16	16	3	2	4	13	13	30	(31)
6 Cambs Utd	16	3	2	3	12	12	6	1	3	16	11	30	(30)
7 L Orient	18	5	2	2	10	10	2	5	2	9	8	28	(19)
8 Mansfield	17	4	1	2	9	6	4	2	4	14	15	27	(23)
9 Plymouth	17	4	2	2	10	5	4	1	4	11	9	27	(21)
10 Darlington	16	4	2	2	14	6	3	2	3	9	12	25	(23)
11 Brighton	16	3	1	4	11	15	5	0	5	10	11	25	(21)
12 Peterboro	17	4	1	5	16	16	3	2	2	15	6	24	(31)
13 Exeter	17	7	1	1	14	5	0	2	6	8	18	24	(20)
14 Rochdale	17	4	3	1	6	6	2	2	5	9	13	23	(17)
15 Hartlpool	16	4	2	3	16	12	2	2	5	10	16	22	(26)
16 Southend	16	3	3	3	11	9	2	3	4	10	16	21	(21)
17 Swansea	17	3	3	1	10	5	2	3	5	9	13	21	(19)
18 Shrwsbury	16	4	3	2	10	10	1	3	5	4	10	21	(14)
19 Chester	17	1	5	2	9	12	3	3	3	12	13	20	(21)
20 Carlisle	15	4	1	3	9	6	1	3	3	7	11	16	(16)
21 Torquay	18	2	6	1	11	9	1	3	5	6	16	16	(16)
22 Barnet	18	3	1	5	10	19	2	2	5	8	10	16	(16)
23 Scarboro	17	2	2	5	13	15	2	1	5	6	11	15	(19)
24 Hull	16	2	1	7	9	17	1	2	5	6	16	12	(15)

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

BASINGSTOKE (0) 1 BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2
Mancey 57 — O'Neill 37, Stein 66
3,830

BEDLINGTON (2) 4 COLCHESTER (0) 1
Dichburn 16, Milner 22, 85 (pen), Cross 59 — Adcock 86
2,027

BRENTFORD (3) 5 CAMBERLEY TOWN (0) 0
Bates 30, Quinn 42, Folan 63, 74, Hreidarsson 66 — 4,783
Sent off: J Heath (Camberley Town) 52

BRISTOL R (0) 3 WELLING (0) 0
Roberts 51, 70, 71 — 5,381

CARDIFF (3) 6 CHESTER (0) 0
Fowler 10, 40, Middleton 12, Williams 55, 71, Delaney 63 — 4,220

CHELTENHAM (0) 0 LINCOLN (0) 1
3,589 — Thorpe 79

DULWICH (0) 0 SOUTHPORT (0) 1
1,835 — Houghton 56 (og)

ENFIELD (0) 2 YORK (2) 2
Durnwell 61, Richardson 66 — Cresswell 16, 35
1,634

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 CARLISLE (0) 1
Howard 43, Miller 64 — Stevens 57
2,845

HEDNESFORD (0) 3 BARNET (0) 1
Davis 71, Kimmins 79, Carty 90 — Currie 47
1,463

KINGSTONIAN (0) 1 BURTON (0) 0
Holligan 65 — 1,505

RUSHDEN & D (1) 1 SHREWSBURY (0) 0
Underwood 19 — 4,121

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 4 BRIGHTON (1) 2
Richards 26, 47, 76, Watschaerts 68 — Barker 22, Mayo 82
7,406

MACCLESFIELD (0) 2 SLOUGH (2) 2
Tomlinson 72, Sodje 87 — Pierson 24, Deaner 38
2,104

MANSFIELD (1) 2 HAYES (0) 1
Clarke 8, Lormor 71 — Flynn 74
2,613

NORTHAMPTON (0) 2 LANCASTER (1) 1
Thomson 55 (og), Sampson 56 — Thomson 30
4,545
Sent off: O Saal (Northampton) 2

OLDHAM (2) 2 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Salt 33, McNiven 37 — 3,173

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 KIDDRMNSTR (0) 0
4,284
Sent off: R Mauge (Plymouth) 38

PRESTON (1) 3 FORD UTD (0) 0
Rankine 31, Harris 53, Darby 90 — 10,167

READING (0) 0 STOKE (1) 1
10,095 — Lightbourne 27

RUNCORN (0) 1 STEVENAGE (0) 1
McNally 85 — Alford 58
1,114

SALISBURY (0) 0 HULL (0) 2
2,570 — Rioch 55, McGinty 79

SCARBOROUGH (0) 1 ROCHDALE (0) 1
Williams 47 — Bryson 75
1,860

SOUTHEND (0) 0 DONCASTER (1) 1
3,740 — Penney 12

TAMWORTH (1) 2 EXETER (1) 2
Gittens 15, Richardson 90 — Shaw 28, Smith 52
2,465

TELFORD (0) 0 CAMBRIDGE U (1) 2
1,818 — Benjamin 22, Butler 66

WALSALL (0) 1 GRESLEY (0) 0
Roper 79 — 4,274

WIGAN (2) 4 BLACKPOOL (1) 3
Greenall 8, Haworth 44, Barlow 49, Lowe 67 — Bent 16, Ormerod 53, Aldridge 90
4,640

WOKING (0) 0 SCUNTHORPE (1) 1
3,359 — Forrester 35

WORCESTER (0) 0 TORQUAY (0) 1
3,023 — Partridge 77

WREXHAM (0) 1 PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
Brammer 89 — 2,590

WYCOMBE (0) 1 CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
Scott 73 — 3,302

YEOVIL (1) 2 W AUCKLAND (2) 2
Patmore 39, Al-James Hannigan 90 — Milroy 9, Adamson 35
3,203

POSTPONED: Darlington v Burnley

Yesterday

BOREHAM WOOD (0) 2 LUTON (1) 3
Nisbet 54, Xavier 81 — Gray 33, 53, Davis 76
1,772

EMLEY (1) 1 ROTHERHAM (0) 1
Banbrook 14 — Hudson 80
6,062

FULHAM (1) 1 LEIGH RMI (1) 1
Lehmann 36 — Whealing 20
7,965

HENDON (0) 0 NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0
1,627

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS. Man City 3 Halifax 0; Swansea 3 Millwall 0

FA CUP SECOND ROUND DRAW: Preston North End v Walsall, Darlington or Burnley v Manchester City; Scunthorpe Utd v Bedlington Terriers, Kingstonian v Leyton Orient, Swansea City v Stoke City; Fulham or Leigh RMI v Hartlepool, Hendon or Notts County v Wigan Athletic; Oldham v Brentford; Doncaster v Rushden & Diamonds; Lincoln City v Runcorn or Stevenage Borough; Luton Town v Hull City; Torquay United v Bournemouth, Wycombe Wanderers v Plymouth Argyle or Kidderminster Harriers, Macclesfield Town or Slough v Cambridge United, Cardiff City v Hednesford Town; Yeovil Town or West Auckland Town v Northampton Town; Wrexham v Enfield or York City; Tamworth or Exeter City v Bristol Rovers, Scarborough or Rochdale v Emley or Rotherham; Mansfield v Southport.
☐ *Ties to be played on December 4, 5 and 8*

FA CUP FIRST ROUND REPLAY DATES: Monday November 23: Stevenage v Runcorn (7.45). Tuesday November 24: York v Enfield (7.45) Rochdale v Scarborough (7.45); West Auckland Tn v Yeovil Town (7.30); Kidderminster v Plymouth (7.45); Slough v Macclesfield (7.45), Exeter v Tamworth (7.45), Rotherham v Emley (7.45), Notts County v Hendon (7.45), Leigh RMI v *Fulham (7.30)*

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

DUNDEE (1) 1 KILMARNOCK (1) 1
Annand 29 — Vareille 45
4,249
Dundee: J Langfield, D Adamczuk (sub: T Coyne, 86min), B Irvine, R Raeside, I Anderson, E Annand, J McInally (sub: G Rae, 74), W Falconer, S McSkimming, W Miller, D Fleming (sub: D Rogers, 65)
Booked: Raeside.
Kilmarnock: G Marshall, A MacPherson, R Montgomerie, K McGowne, G Holt, P Wright, I Durrant, A Mitchell, J Vareille, M Baker, M Roberts.
Referee: J McCluskey.

MOTHERWELL (1) 3 HEARTS (0) 2
Spencer 40, Coyle 68, 84 — Hamilton 69 (pen), Guerin 85
8,912
Motherwell: M Kaven, E May (sub: I Ross, 65min), S McMillan, J McGowan, G Brannan, S Valakari, O Coyle, M Doesburg, S Teale, P Nevin (sub: D Adams, 86), J Spencer.
Hearts: G Rousset, D McPherson, G Naysmith, D Weir, G Fulton, S Adam, G Locke (sub: J Cariccondo, 79), S Pressley, G Murray (sub: J Quitongo, 61), V Guerin, G McSwegan (sub: J Hamilton, 61).
Referee: M Clark.

RANGERS (1) 2 ABERDEEN (0) 1
Van Bronckhorst 8, Kanchelskis 82 — Jess 56
49,479
Rangers: A Niemi, S Porrini, A Numan, C Hendry, B Ferguson, A Kanchelskis, G Van Bronckhorst, J Albertz (sub: I Ferguson, 70min), R Wallace, J Johansson (sub: S Guivarc'h, 45), S Wilson.
Booked: Van Bronckhorst, Hendry.
Aberdeen: J Leighton, M Perry, D Whyte, G Smith, C Hignett, E Jess, M Newell, I Kiriakov (sub: M Hart, 88), R Anderson, D Rowson, R Winters.
Booked: Newell, Hignett.
Referee: H Dallas.

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 2 CELTIC (0) 1
Simao 45, McAnespie 78 — Larsson 51
9,762
St Johnstone: A Main, J McQuillan, N Dasovic, A Kernaghan, P Scott, J O'Neil, R Grant (sub: N Lowndes, 73min), G Bollan, K O'Halloran (sub: K McAnespie, 29), D Dods, M Simao.
Booked: Grant.
Celtic: T Warner, T Boyd, Mahe (sub: T McKinlay, 83), J McNamara, H Larsson, P O'Donnell, S Donnelly, D Hannah, Moravcik, M Burchill, V Riseth.
Booked: Boyd.
Referee: E Martindale.

Yesterday

DUNFERMLINE (2) 2 DUNDEE UTD (1) 1
Tod 26, McCulloch 35 — Mathie 3
10,704
Dunfermline: L Butler, G Shields, M McCulloch, A Tod, C Ireland, A Smith, G Johnson, Edinho, J Squires, D Graham, D Ferguson.
Dundee Utd: S Dijkstra, M Malpas, S Jonsson, D Patterson, K Olofsson, L Zetterlund, C Easton, A Mathie, D Dodds, M Skoldmark, B Pascual.
Referee: J Rowbotham.

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (1) 4 CLYDEBANK (0) 1
Hurst 42, 56, Lyons 84, Walker 87 — Robertson 78
2,450

FALKIRK (1) 1 RAITH (1) 1
Keith 22 — Dargo 24
3,611

GK MORTON (0) 0 AIRDRIE (0) 0
3,000

HAMILTON (1) 1 STRANRAER (1) 2
MacFarlane 37 — Harty 10, Young 52
598

POSTPONED: Hibernian v St Mirren (Pool Panel verdict: HT: Home win FT: Home win).

SECOND DIVISION

ARBROATH (1) 2 LIVINGSTON (1) 2
McGlashan 1, Arbuckle 61 — Deas 45, Bingham 51
810

CLYDE (1) 2 ALLOA (0) 1
McCusker 45 (pen), Convery 83 — McKay 60
908

EAST FIFE (0) 1 FORFAR (0) 0
Moffat 84 — 1,422

QUEEN OF SOUTH (1) 2 INVERNESS CT (1) 2
Eadie 34 (pen), Bailey 72 — Sheerin 32, McLean 74
1,021

STIRLING (1) 2 PARTICK (0) 0
Graham 37, Bone 76 — 1,513

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (2) 3 EAST STIRLING (1) 1
Diack 16, McLees 38, McStay 74 — Barr 39
331

BERWICK (0) 3 COWDENBEATH (1) 1
Forrester 49, 73, Neil 65 — Hamilton 3
296

DUMBARTON (1) 1 BRECHIN (1) 2
Flannery 37 — Dickson 45, Sorbie 54
357
Sent off: S Kerrigan (Brechin) 89

MONTROSE (0) 0 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0
304

ROSS COUNTY (2) 5 QUEEN'S PARK (1) 1
Tarrant 16 (pen), 48 (pen), 57, Ferries 33, Ferguson 84 (pen) — Carmichael 18
1,433
Sent off: R Caven (Queen's Park) 48

Roberto Baggio, of Internazionale, finds his path to goal blocked by Ferron, the Sampdoria goalkeeper, yesterday. His side returned to form with a 3-0 victory

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (0) 0 IPSWICH (1) 1
15,966 — Johnson 5
Sent off: Arjan De Zeeuw (Barnsley) 42

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 OXFORD UTD (1) 1
16,216 — Murphy 27

BOLTON (0) 2 TRANMERE (1) 2
Johansen 53, Holdsworth 86 (pen) — Irons 32 (pen), 67 (pen)
16,564
Sent off: M Fish (Bolton) 79

BRADFORD (0) 3 SWINDON (0) 0
Beagrie 48 (pen), Pepper 79, Jacobs 90 — 14,597
Sent off: C Taylor (Swindon) 47

CREWE (0) 0 QPR (1) 2
5,001 — Peacock 34, Sheron 62

C PALACE (1) 2 BRISTOL CITY (1) 1
Bradbury 5, Jansen 89 — Andersen 35
17,821

GRIMSBY (1) 1 PORTSMOUTH (1) 1
Groves 26 — Aloisi 23
Sent off: R Perrett (Portsmouth) 14

NORWICH (0) 0 WOLVRHMPTN (0) 0
17,275
Sent off: M Jackson (Norwich) 48

PORT VALE (0) 0 SUNDERLAND (1) 2
8,833 — Aspin 28 (og), Quinn 65

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 3 BURY (1) 1
Katchouro 57, 71, 80 — James 39
14,164

STOCKPORT (1) 1 WATFORD (1) 1
Dinning 38 (pen) — Johnson 9
8,019

WEST BROM (1) 3 HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1
Hughes 29, 75 (both pens), 84 — Beresford 6
13,626
Sent off: N Vaesen (Huddersfield) 75

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

CONFERENCE

DOVER (0) 0 KETTERING (0) 1
807 — McNamara 71

FOREST GREEN (2) 3 NORTHWICH (1) 1
Hunt 23 (pen), Cook 28, 59 — Terry 38
684

HEREFORD (0) 2 FARNBOROUGH (0) 0
Leadbeater 55 (pen), Dyer 89 — 1,788

MORECAMBE (1) 2 LEEK (2) 2
Lyons 43, Healy 90 — Mike 9, Ellis 20
840

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
		HOME					AWAY					
Cheltenham	16	4	4	0	16	6	5	1	2	15	9	32
Stevenage	17	5	3	1	14	6	4	2	2	9	6	32
Kettering	18	5	3	2	12	7	4	2	2	10	6	32
Rushden	15	4	1	2	19	6	5	3	0	14	5	31
Kingstonian	16	5	1	2	15	11	3	3	2	11	11	28
Hereford	17	4	2	2	11	6	3	3	3	12	12	28
Hayes	15	5	1	1	10	4	3	1	4	9	15	26
Hednesford	15	4	3	1	11	7	2	3	2	9	10	24
Yeovil	16	1	2	4	10	13	5	4	0	12	7	24
Northwich	17	4	0	4	10	9	2	4	3	9	11	22
Kiddrmnstr	18	6	1	2	19	9	6	2	5	4	10	21
Morecambe	17	4	3	2	16	11	2	6	6	16	24	21
Southport	15	3	3	2	15	12	2	2	3	7	10	20
Leek	16	5	0	3	20	11	1	1	6	8	12	19
Dover	15	1	4	2	5	6	3	2	3	8	10	16
Forest Green	16	3	0	4	10	11	1	5	3	10	13	17
Telford	15	2	4	3	8	11	2	1	3	7	11	17
Woking	15	1	3	4	7	12	3	1	3	17	9	16
Farnborough	16	3	1	4	16	17	1	2	5	3	15	15
Welling	17	2	5	2	6	9	6	3	5	7	17	14
Barrow	16	2	3	2	6	6	1	2	6	10	24	14
Doncaster	16	1	2	4	4	7	1	2	6	10	17	10

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 2 Gainsborough 1, Bamber Bridge 5 Spennymoor 1 Bishop Auckland 2 Altrnchm 1, Chorley 2 Stalybridge 1, Frickley 1 Guiseley 2: Hyde 2 Colwyn Bay 2, Winsford 2 Blyth Spartans 2, Worksop 1 Marine 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Winsford Utd	17	9	6	2	30	18	33
Worksop	16	10	3	3	25	15	33
Guiseley	15	8	2	4	28	17	29
Gainsborough	18	8	4	6	27	18	28
Bamber Bridge	17	8	4	5	24	22	28
Altrincham	17	7	5	5	25	17	26
Emley	15	6	6	3	22	17	24
Whitby Town	16	6	6	4	28	25	24
Lancaster	14	6	5	3	22	15	23
Gateshead	17	6	5	6	25	22	23
Blyth Sparts	18	7	2	9	20	27	23
Leigh RMI	15	6	4	5	25	20	22
Colwyn Bay	19	6	4	9	23	30	22
Hyde Utd	15	5	6	4	19	23	21
Marine	18	4	8	6	24	30	20
Bishop Auck	20	5	5	10	27	35	20
Runcorn	13	4	7	2	15	14	19
Frickley	15	4	6	5	18	21	18
Accrington S	17	4	4	9	19	28	16
Stalybridge	16	3	5	8	19	28	14
Chorley	18	2	8	8	20	34	14
Spennymoor	18	3	3	12	23	42	12

FIRST DIVISION: Alfreton 1 Netherfield Kendal 2; Ashton 1 Belper Town 0 Congleton 2 *Radcliffe* 8, Eastwood Town 1 Harrogate Town 1, Farsley Celtic 1 Droylsden 1 Flixton 0 Bradford PA 2, Gretna 3 Matlock Town 2, Hucknall 2 Whitley Bay 2; Lincoln 2 Burscough 0, Witton 0 Trafford 1 Challenge cup: First round: Whitby 1 Gateshead 2

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Crawley 2 Gloucester 1, Halesowen 2 Merthyr 0, Hastings 0 Nuneaton 4, Ilkeston 0 Bath 0; Rothwell 2 Bromsgrove 0; Weymouth 1 King's Lynn 0, Grantham 1 Atherstone 1, Cambridge City 1 Boston 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	17	12	3	2	41	12	39
Gresley Rovers	13	8	2	3	20	13	26
Ilkeston Tn	16	7	5	4	27	21	26
Atherstone	15	7	5	3	24	18	26
Hastings	15	7	3	5	17	13	24
Crawley Town	14	7	3	4	20	18	24
Boston Utd	17	6	8	4	26	19	23
Bath City	14	7	2	5	18	12	23
Merthyr	16	7	2	7	28	23	23
Cambridge City	17	7	2	6	20	25	23
Worcester City	13	7	1	5	15	17	22
Gloucester City	14	5	5	4	16	15	20
Halesowen	16	6	2	8	23	25	20
Tamworth	14	6	2	8	19	23	20
Rothwell Town	15	5	5	5	14	18	20
Weymouth	15	5	4	6	18	19	19
Burton Albion	14	5	2	7	21	23	17
Bromsgrove	16	5	2	9	17	28	17
Grantham	15	5	1	9	22	27	16
Salisbury	14	4	3	7	16	24	15
Kings Lynn	14	3	1	10	14	26	10
Dorchester	14	1	3	10	12	28	6

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bilston 1 Stamford AFC 1; Blakenall 0 Newport AFC 6; Cinderford 2 Moor Green 3, Clevedon 3 Bedworth 4: Hinckley 0 Evesham 1, Paget 5 VS Rugby 2, RC Warwick 1 Sutton Coldfield Town 1; Shepshed Dynamo 3 Redditch 5: Solihull Boro 1 Wisbech 0; Weston-super-Mare 2 Stafford 3. Southern division: Andover 3 Erith and Belvedere 1, Baldock 0 St Leonards 2; Brackley 0 Witney 4; Chelmsford 2 Margate 3, Cirencester 1 Bashley 1; Corby 0 Sittingbourne 0, Fleet 2 Fisher 1, Tonbridge Angels 1 Folkestone Invicta 1 Yate 0 Raunds 3

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 2 Purfleet 1, Bromley 1 Sutton United 1, Harrow 1 Aldershot Town 0, Walton and Hersham 2 Bishop's Stortford 2, Carshalton 1 Heybridge *Swifts 2*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	15	10	4	1	29	11	34
Billericay Tn	15	8	5	2	20	10	29
St Albans	14	8	4	2	27	16	28
Sutton Utd	14	8	3	3	29	15	27
Dag & Red	14	7	3	4	34	21	24
Purfleet	14	7	3	4	24	17	24
Gravesend	15	7	3	5	20	15	24
Aldershot Tn	14	6	4	4	33	13	22
Hendon	15	6	4	5	29	26	22
Harrow Boro	16	6	4	6	26	24	22
Bromley	16	5	4	7	28	25	19
Basingstoke	13	5	3	5	24	19	18
Enfield	14	5	2	7	21	22	17
Slough	14	4	5	5	21	28	17
Chesham	14	5	2	7	19	26	17
Boreham Wood	14	3	7	4	17	21	16
Dulwich	14	4	4	6	13	20	16
Hampton	15	4	4	7	19	32	16
Walton & H	14	4	3	7	18	22	15
Bishop's S	16	2	7	7	24	33	13
Heybridge	15	2	4	9	13	40	10
Carshalton	15	2	2	11	15	37	8

FIRST DIVISION: Berkhamsted 2 Croydon 2, Canvey Island 0 Barton 2, Grays 1 Bognor Regis 3, Hitchin 1 Leyton Pennant 0, Maidenhead 0 Romford 1, Molesey 1 Yeading 1 *Staines* 0 Oxford City 0, Uxbridge 0 Wealdstone 1 Worthing 2 Braintree 2. Second division: Bedford Town 6 Northwood 0; Bracknell 0 Horsham 1; Edgware 3 Wokingham 0, Marlow 2 Hertford 1, Windsor and Eton 3 Witham 1, Wivenhoe 1 Harlow 2. Third division: Cheshunt 2 Southall 0, Croydon 1 Tilbury 3, Dorking 0 Egham 4, East Thurrock 4 Kingsbury 0, Flackwell Heath 0 Hornchurch 0, Ware 2 Lewes 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Colchester Utd 0 Brentford 3 Leyton Orient 2 Bristol Rovers 1, Luton Town 2 Barnet 0, Portsmouth 1 Brighton 0, Southend Utd 4 Swindon 2, Wycombe 0 Reading 0

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Mansfield 1 West Brom 2 Northampton 1 Walsall 1, Port Vale 2 Stoke 0 Wolverhampton 0 Notts County 0. North East Conference: Bradford 0 York 1 Darlington 1 Grimsby 1.

Halifax 2 Hartlepool 3, Scarborough 3 Huddersfield 0; Sheff Utd 0 Scunthorpe 2 North West Conference: Blackpool 1 Carlisle Utd 1, Burnley 2 Wrexham 1, Oldham 3 Bury 1; Stockport 0 Rochdale 0, Tranmere 2 Wigan 2

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Arsenal 0 Tottenham 1; Aston Villa 5 Man City 0, Blackburn 5 Man Utd 1; Bristol City 1 Southampton 1, Charlton 1 Wimbledon 1 Derby 2 Newcastle 2; Everton 2 Bolton 2; Fulham 0 Chelsea 5, Ipswich 0 Nottm Forest 4; Leicester 2 Barnsley 4, Liverpool 2 Crewe 0, Middlesbrough 2 Sheff Wed 1; Norwich 0 Coventry 4; Peterborough 0 West Ham 0, QPR 1 Crystal Palace 4, Sunderland 4 Leeds 1, Watford 0 Millwall 0 Under-17: Aston Villa 2 Man City 1, Blackburn 0 Man Utd 2, Bristol City 3 Southampton 0, Coventry 3 Nottm Forest 1, Crystal Palace 0 QPR 4, Everton 3 Fulham 2; Leicester 1 Barnsley 0, Liverpool 1 Crewe 0; Middlesbrough 2 Sheff Wed 3, Sunderland 2 Leeds 2, Watford 1 Millwall 2, West Ham 2 Peterborough 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 4 Malvern 2, Bustleholme 1 Lye 2; Darlaston 1 Cradley 2, Gornal 0 Ettingshall 1; Kington 4 Westfields 3, Ludlow 3 Tipton 1, Wolverhampton 2 Dudley Town 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 2 Stourport S 3; Boldmere St M 2 Rushall O 1; Chasetown 1 Halesowen H 3, Knypersley V 2 Stratford T 1, Oldbury U 0 Kings Norton 2, Rocester 3 Pershore T 2, Sandwell 0 Willenhall 1, Shifnal T 0 Pelsall V 3, Stapenhill 1 W Mid Police 3; Wednesfield 1 Bridgnorth 3

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 5 Bedfont 2, Ashford 2 Farnham 3, Cove 3 Hartley Wintney 2, Cranleigh 1 Cobham 4, Feltham 1 Godalming and Guildford 0 Merstham 3 Walton Casuals 2: Netherne 0 Raynes Park Vale 3. Premier challenge cup: Chipstead 2 Ash 3

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: League cup: Fourth round: Armthorpe Welfare 5 Glasshoughton Welfare 4, Arnold 4 Rossington Main 2, Buxton 3 Brigg 1, Garforth 2 Liversedge 1; Louth 0 Ossett Albion 3, Maltby Main 3 Hall Road 0, Parkgate 0 North Ferriby 3, Staveley MW 0 Thackley 2, Winterton 0 Selby 1, Yorkshire Amateur 1 Hallam 2

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Bootle 0 Maine Road 1, Clitheroe 2 Prescot Cables 3, Holker Old Boys 1 Ramsbottom 0, Leek CSOB 1 Atherton Collieries 4, Mossley 2 St Helens 1, Newcastle Town 2 Cheadle 0, Rossendale 1 Glossop North End 3, Salford 3 Atherton LR 5, Skelmersdale 2 Kidsgrove 0 Workington 3 Nantwich 2. League cup: First round: Daisy Hill 6 Colne 4

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: *First division:* Billingham Town 2 South Shields 2, Chester-le-Street 0 Tow Law 1, Consett 0 Crook 1, Jarrow Roofing 2 Stockton 4, Morpeth 1 Penrith 2

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 5 Almondsbury 0; *Burnham 2 EFC Cheltenham 3, Fairford 0* Bicester 2 Hallen 1 Banbury 1 Shortwood 1 Wantage 1

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 3 Kings Heath 6, Coleshill 1 Dudley Sports 0 Coventry Sphinx 4 Cheslyn Hay 1, GPT (Coventry) 1 Bilston Community College 0, Handrahan Timbers 0 Southam 0, Kenilworth 1 Continental Star 1. Massey Ferguson 1 Alveston 3

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 0 Sudbury Wanderers 4, Ely 0 Wroxham 3; Fakenham 4 Ipswich 0, Felixstowe P and T 1 Lowestoft 0, Gorleston 0 Histon 1: Sudbury 0 Soham 0, Warboys 3 Great Yarmouth 1, Watton 2 Newmarket 0, Woodbridge 5 Halstead 3

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bemerton Heath Harl 6 Gosport 2, Brockenhurst 2 AFC Newbury 2, Downton 1 Totton 1 Fareham 0 Christchurch 2. Lymington and New Milton 2 Hamble ASSC 0; Money Fields 4 East Cowes 1, Thatcham 4 Cowes Sports 3; Whitchurch 1 Portsmouth RN 1; Wimborne 6 Bournemouth 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 1 Welwyn Garden 4, Beaconsfield Sycob 1 Potters Bar 1, Buckingham Athletic 3 St Margaretsbury 3, Harpenden 0 Haringey 2, Hoddesdon 2 Brimsdown 0, Islington St Mary's A Brache Sparta A, New Bradwell St Peter 0 Hillingdon 0

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Ilford 1 Burnham Ramblers 4

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 0 Odd Down 1 Bristol Manor Farm 0 Brislington 2, Chippenham 3 Bridport 1; Keynsham 1 Bridgwater 4, Mangotsfield 1 Bishop Sutton 2, Paulton 5 Elmore 2, Taunton 3 Yeovil TR 0, Tiverton 8 Westbury 0. Les Phillips cup first round: Bideford 2 Calne 1, Ilfracombe 0 Pewsey Vale 1; Minehead 0 Melksham 2.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Etonians 1 Salopians 8, Reptonians 0 Bradfieldians 0

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield OG 3 Glyn OB 2. Senior first division: Old Isleworthians 0 Latymer OB 3; Old Tiffinians 2 Old Suttonians 2; Shene OG 2 Old Dorkinians 6

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Bank Of England 0 Alleyn Old Boys 0; Cuaco 1 Old Latymerians 3, Kew Association 4 Southgate Olympic 2, Merton 3 Brentham 3; Midland Bank 4 Old Stationers 1, Old Esthameians 1 Old Lyonians 0; Old Finchleians 5 Old Westminster Cit 0, Old Owens 3 Old Salesians 2, Old Parkonians 0 Civil Service 3, Polytechnic 0 Nat West Bank 0, South Bank 0 Old Bromleians 0, West Wickham 2 Lloyds Bank 2

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: HAC 2 Old Grammarians 1, Parkfield 1 Nottsborough 3.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackstone 0 Wootton 0, Buckingham 4 Eynesbury 0, Ford Sports 0 Stotfold 1, Holbeach 2 Kempston 2, Long Buckby 0 Desborough 1, Potton 1 Spalding 6, S and L Corby 2 Boston 1 Yaxley 2 Wellingborough 2

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 2 Chichester 1, East Preston 4 Ringmer 2, Eastbourne 6 Horsham YMCA 0, Langney Sports 4 Littlehampton 1; Saltdean 2 Redhill 2, Shoreham 6 Eastbourne Town 0, Whitehawk 1 Portfield 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Crockenhill 1 Lordswood 0 Faversham 4 Erith 1, Greenwich 4 Tunbridge W 1 Thamesmead 1 Ramsgate 0

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Everton 2 Ilkeston Tn 1, Liverpool 0 Arsenal 5, Tranmere Rov 3 Southampton Saints 0

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Southern division: Brighton 1 Whitehawk 4

FA WOMEN'S CUP: Second round: Slough 3 Chesham 3, Three Bridges 4 Ipswich 1

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor 1 Aberystwyth 2, Caernarfon 1 Connahs Quay 1, *Conwy 2 Caersws 1, Holywell 1 Carmarthen 1*, Inter Cable-Tel 1 Total Net Sol 1, Newtown 4 Afan Lido 0, Rhyl 0 Barry 6

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove 1 Peterhead 2, Huntly 2 Deveronvale 1, Lossiemouth 1 Buckie Thistle 0. Postponed: Clachnacuddin v Brora, Elgin v Wick Academy, Forres Mechanics v Keith, Nairn County v Fort William, Rothes v Fraserburgh

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville 2 Crusaders 3, Coleraine 0 Linfield 0, Glentoran 1 Newry 3, Omagh 0 Glenavon 3, Portadown 1 Ballymena 3. First division: Bangor 2 Dungannon Swifts 1 Distillery 3 Ballyclare 3 Larne 0 Ards 2 Limavady 1 Carrick 2

All other matches postponed

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Rangers	14	6	1	0	14	3	3	2	2	14	5	30	+20
2 Kilmarnock	14	4	2	1	12	6	2	4	1	6	4	24	+6
3 Celtic	14	4	2	1	17	5	1	3	3	6	11	20	+6
4 St Johnstn	14	3	2	2	11	12	2	3	2	8	6	20	-4
5 Motherwll	14	4	3	1	9	6	0	2	4	4	14	17	-7
6 Hearts	14	4	1	2	10	6	0	3	4	4	12	16	-4
7 Dundee	14	3	3	2	7	7	1	1	4	6	13	18	-7
6 Dundee Utd	14	1	4	1	4	5	2	1	5	6	12	14	-4
9 Aberdeen	14	2	3	1	9	8	1	2	5	6	12	14	-5
10 Dunfrmline	14	2	4	1	9	8	0	4	3	3	10	14	-6

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ayr	15	4	1	2	22	12	5	1	2	11	7	29	+14
2 Hibernian	14	4	1	1	12	7	4	3	1	14	10	28	+9
3 Airdrie	15	3	1	4	8	12	5	2	0	10	4	27	+2
4 Falkirk	15	3	4	1	9	7	4	1	2	12	6	26	+8
5 St Mirren	14	5	0	2	9	7	2	2	3	3	4	23	+1
6 Clydebank	15	2	2	3	5	6	3	3	2	11	11	20	-1
7 Hamilton	15	2	2	3	9	11	3	2	3	12	11	19	-1
6 G Morton	15	2	2	4	9	6	1	1	5	4	8	12	-3
9 Raith	15	1	3	4	4	10	1	2	4	8	13	11	-11
10 Stranraer	15	1	1	6	6	12	2	0	5	7	17	10	-18

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Livingston	15	6	2	0	14	5	4	2	1	15	11	34	+13
2 Inverness C	15	6	1	0	19	11	4	2	2	13	10	33	+11
3 Clyde	15	5	2	1	15	7	2	2	3	7	10	25	+5
4 Partick	15	4	1	3	8	6	3	0	4	9	11	22	0
5 Stirling	15	4	0	3	12	10	3	1	4	11	17	22	-4
6 Alloa	15	4	2	2	24	10	2	1	4	10	12	21	+12
7 East Fife	15	2	1	4	9	18	3	1	4	11	16	17	-12
8 Arbroath	15	2	2	4	6	12	2	2	3	9	6	16	-5
9 Queen Of S	15	3	2	2	11	8	0	1	7	5	15	12	-7
10 Forfar	15	1	1	5	7	12	1	2	5	7	15	9	-13

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ross Co	15	5	0	3	15	7	6	0	1	26	11	33	+23
2 Brechin	15	4	4	0	10	4	5	2	0	12	5	33	+13
3 Stenhsmuir	15	4	0	3	14	11	4	3	1	6	3	27	+8
4 Dumbarton	15	3	2	3	12	8	4	2	1	10	5	25	+6
5 Albion	15	3	1	3	11	17	3	1	4	7	11	20	-10
6 Queen's Pk	15	2	3	2	8	8	2	1	5	11	13	18	-2
7 Berwick	15	3	1	4	11	13	0	6	1	5	7	16	-4
8 East Stirling	15	1	4	2	7	7	2	2	4	10	10	15	0
9 Cowdnbth	15	2	1	5	8	13	2	1	4	8	14	14	-13
10 Montrose	15	1	3	3	8	12	0	1	7	5	25	7	-24

VERNONS NATIONAL LOTTERY GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were twelve score draws: Charlton v Middlesbrough; Newcastle v Sheffield Wed. Bolton v Tranmere; Grimsby v Portsmouth, Stockport v Watford, Dundee v Kilmarnock; Falkirk v Raith; Arbroath v Livingston; Queen of South v Inverness Cal; Winsford Utd v Blyth Spartans, Worksop v Marine, Walton & Hersham v Bishop's Stortford. Payouts on eight, seven and six score draws. This week's estimated pay out for: Eight score draws: 86 winners each £1,676.50. Seven score draws: 1329 winners each £29.50. Six score draws: 9572 winners each £8.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	3
2	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	3

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required—winnings sent automatically—forecast is moderate: 12 score draws and 12 no-score draws. Full-time, no claims required—forecast is very low, 13 score draws and 4 no-score drawn

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FA Cup: Plucky Boreham Wood make Nationwide League team fight for survival

Luton almost taste own medicine

Boreham Wood 2
Luton Town 3

By Rob Hughes

THE appeal of cup football, as Luton Town, having already dispensed with Ipswich Town, Coventry City and Barnsley in the Worthington Cup this season have shown, is that adrenalin and desire can bridge the ability gap.

In a spirited game at Meadow Park yesterday, Luton managed, just, to make superior talents tell and, significantly, were the only Nationwide League club to do so in the day's four matches between league and non-League opposition.

They won because their concentration, opportunism and skills prevailed, but, in an open and small ground, swept by the coldest and keenest of northerly winds, the professionals were not that distinguishable from those who earn their living laying carpets or working at the bank.

Indeed, Kerry Dixon, who, at 37, admits that his legs are not what they were, was furious with the Boreham Wood players, among whom he performs to the remaining depths of his lung power and coaches.

"We didn't expect to beat Luton," he said, "but once we were out there, we had our chance. We lost because of basic errors; not marking people like Steve Davis and Phil Gray in the goalmouth is not on. We matched them for endeavour, but our concentration gave way and we were made to pay for it."

These occasions in the FA Cup are to be savoured. The security forces put a maximum of 4,000 places in this ground, refurbished recently for £500,000, but though the audience is close enough almost to touch the players, to smell their embrocation, it takes rather more than names to impress the folks of Boreham Wood.

Graham Hill raised his family around the corner and from the new stand can be seen Elstree Studios, where all manner of stars of the screen have made their names.

Nevertheless, Phil Gray, with his well-taken brace of goals yesterday, was a 30-year-old celebrating a return to a comparative life at the top. He spent last season in an agonised limbo, suffering injury to both ankles and then requiring back surgery, so the flow of his instinctive goals this season is a release, one recognised by a belated call into the Northern Ireland squad this week.

His first strike came, as Dixon, a Lutonian through and through, had complained. After a short corner on the right, Alexander crossed the ball precisely and, with the home defence grouped around the dangerous Davis, Gray was left in yards of space to score with a precise header.

At this stage, Boreham Wood were gambling. Dominic Grime, the right winger, was off the field requiring stitches to his right eyebrow. A man short, his colleagues succumbed.

Luton, however, knew that they had lived dangerously and that, while Dixon lacked mobility, the tall and athletic Tony Samuels was forever a danger. Nonetheless, after a hypnotic run from Sean Evers, Kofi Nyamah struck the outside of the post and, within minutes of that, Alexander and Evers broke down the right, Stuart Douglas rode the lunging tackle of Garry Nisbet and then laid the ball back unselfishly for Gray to score his second.

"I thought then we had to be safe, but I was wrong," Lennie Lawrence, the astute Luton manager, said. "Boreham Wood were never going to beat us, but they reminded us of what the Cup is about — they wouldn't let go."

Nisbet certainly would not. He is a man who has handled more money than even the overnight millionaires of the FA Carling Premiership, a man whose day job is as head printer of banknotes for the Bank of England. Striding forward from his defensive post, he capitalised on a woeful headed clearance by Marvin Johnson to score low down with his right foot.

Awakened, Luton eventually reimposed their rhythm and their two-goal advantage. Gray, almost inevitably, was involved. Finding space beyond the far post at a Ray McKinnon corner, he produced a delicate chip back into the goalmouth, where Davis scored with a whiplash header.

Even then, it was not comfortable, for Boreham Wood, drinking again on the spirit of the underdog, made use at last of Dixon's renowned aerial command. Grime, restored to the wing, lofted the ball towards Dixon, the former England centre forward headed it down and Mark Xavier, the substitute, scored for the Ryman League team.

"A lot of people in there are giving us plaudits," Dixon said, "but it's not good enough. We talked and we trained long on set-pieces, but two mistakes at corners and we're out of the FA Cup. We may be part-timers, but we have to correct those faults, and quickly, if we are to maintain this club's progress towards League football." Severe, lacking the romance of the Cup, but true.

BOREHAM WOOD (3-6-2): M Taylor — S Sanders, G Nisbet, A McCarthy — D Grime, J Shew, M Brown (sub: S Daly, 88min), M Brady (sub: S Ireland, 67) — K Dixon, T Samuels (sub: M Xavier, 64).
LUTON TOWN (4-4-2): K Davis — G Alexander, S Davis, M Johnson, G McGowen — S Evers, P McLaren, R McKinnon (sub: M Spring, 90), K Nyamah (sub: M Mondoe, 63) — P Gray, S Douglas (sub: G Doherty, 86).
Referee: P Alcock.

Dixon, left, the Boreham Wood coach and former England striker, is outjumped by Davis at Meadow Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Doncaster draw no jewel for ambitious Diamonds

By Nick Szczepanik

THE prize for Doncaster Rovers and Rushden and Diamonds, two of Saturday's FA Cup first-round giantkillers, was to be drawn against each other in the only tie of the second round that guarantees non-league representation in the third, when the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League first division clubs enter the competition.

Doncaster, who lost Football League status at the end of last season and now prop up the Football Conference, will be at home, for their first appearance in the second round since 1989, after becoming the first non-league side to win at Roots Hall, where they beat Southend United 1-0. Rushden and Diamonds, who lie fourth in the Conference with games in hand, beat Shrewsbury Town by the same score.

Bedlington Terriers, of the Arnott Insurance Northern League first division, whose convincing 4-1 victory over Colchester United was the outstanding result of the first round, were rewarded, if that is the word, with a journey to Scunthorpe United. "One of the greatest Cup results produced by a North East non-league side," Keith Perry, the joint-manager said. "If we can play the same way at Scunthorpe, who knows what might lie ahead?" Other non-league survivors who have to travel include Southport, who go to Mansfield Town, and Hednesford Town, 3-1 conquerors of Barnet, who visit Cardiff City.

Generally, the draw was kind to Nationwide League clubs, with only Northampton Town, who have appeared at Wembley in each of the past two seasons in play-off finals, and Leyton Orient definitely away to non-league opposition. Orient cross London to play Kingstonian, while Northampton will travel to meet the winners of the replay between West Auckland and Yeovil Town.

West Auckland were seconds away from victory at Yeovil, only to be denied by a ninetieth-minute equaliser. Tamworth, of the Dr Martens League, were even closer to a home tie with Bristol Rovers. Exeter City equalising in the fifth minute of stoppage time at the Lamb Ground. By comparison, Macclesfield Town denied Slough Town with plenty to spare at Moss Rose, Efe Sodje's equaliser in the 87th minute forcing a replay to decide who receives Cambridge United.

Emley must replay at Rotherham then visit either Scarborough or Rochdale if they are to repeat their feat last season of reaching the third round, while Enfield, should they overcome York City, have to travel to Wrexham. Kidderminster Harriers may fancy their chances at Wycombe Wanderers, provided that they can overcome Plymouth Argyle after the goalless draw at Home Park.

Arguably the tie of the round sees Walsall, in third place in the second division, visit fourth-placed Preston.

FA CUP

Second round draw, page 32

Hendon take a practical view

Hendon 0
Notts County 0

By Nick Szczepanik

FOR those who believe strongly in the romance of the FA Cup, the closing moments of the tie at Claremont Road yesterday must have been sobering ones.

With the game goalless, Hendon were awarded a free kick on the halfway line, with a chance to launch another of the high crosses into the penalty area that had troubled Notts County all afternoon — so, everyone, surely, would be pushed forward in a final effort to secure the prize of a home second-round tie with Wigan Athletic?

Well, no, actually. All four defenders stayed firmly in their positions, the kick was cleared and Hendon saw out the game with only one forward. "I just felt we were tiring," Frank Murphy, the Hendon manager, said. "It was no good going kamikaze and throwing away the hard work we'd done. I'll settle for that."

However, before anyone gets the idea that the lust for glory no longer exists among non-league clubs and that the Ryman League premier division side was thinking only of a share of the gate for the replay at Meadow Lane in eight days' time, it is worth remembering that Hendon won a replay on a league ground at this stage of the competition last season, beating Leyton Orient at Brisbane Road — as Sam Allardyce, the County manager, was well aware.

"We've only got half a job done," he said. "We must make sure we don't take Hendon for granted and finish the job off."

He also admitted that the first half had been hard work for his players on a heavy, bumpy pitch as Hendon forced a series of corners against a nervy defence. Cox (twice), Lewis and Pye went close, but the best early chance fell to Paul Whitmarsh, the forward signed for £10,000 with the help of the proceeds from the Cup run last season. After ten minutes, he won possession on the left, cut inside and drifted a shot over Ward, only to see it rebound from a post.

In an otherwise poor second half, the eightieth minute was nearly decisive: first, Owers, who appeared for Sunderland in their 1992 final defeat by Liverpool, blocked a close-range effort by Daly and then, as the ball went to the other end, McCann touched away a long-range effort from Pearce.

"All in all, I'm happy with the result," Pearce said. "We'll do it the hard way, like we did last year."

HENDON (4-4-2): G McCann — M Howard, S Bateman, A Cox, S Clarke — F Hyatt, G Fitzgerald, J Daly, M Pye (sub: S Heard, 81min) — J Lewis, P Whitmarsh (sub: M Moran, 90).
NOTTS COUNTY (3-4-3): D Ward — C Fairclough, M Redmile, I Richardson — I Hendon, G Owers, S Murray, D Pearce — G Jones, S Farrell (sub: R Lilford, 81), J Jackson.
Referee: E Wolstenholme

Felgate keeps Keegan marauders at bay

Fulham 1
Leigh RMI 1

By Ivo Tennant

THEY had no wish to leave the pitch and, for some while, it seemed that a lap of honour was in order. Leigh RMI had brought just 706 supporters to London for their biggest match to date, but none regretted the long journey from the rugby league domain of Wigan. Their team thoroughly merited a draw and a lucrative FA Cup first-round replay on November 24.

Indeed, other than a period of perhaps 15 minutes when Fulham peppered the Leigh goalkeeper with crosses, shots and headers, there was all too little to choose between the teams. Leigh took the lead and benefited greatly from the experience of David Felgate, their 38-year-old goalkeeper, who has made more than 700 appearances for some of the less celebrated northern clubs in the Football League. His positioning and reflexes were terrific.

Kevin Keegan, the Fulham manager, generously applauded the Leigh supporters as he trudged off at the end, but must have wished that he had spent Sunday at home with his family, as his boss, Mohamed Al Fayed, habitually does. "It was a great performance by Leigh," he said.

Steve Waywell, the Leigh manager, said that Keegan had asked him towards the end how much he wanted for Felgate. "I laughed and said £1 million. I was having plenty to laugh about at that time because we were fortunate not to concede another goal.

"We knew our only chance would be to score through a set piece or a corner and we took it. Now we are going to play Skelmersdale tomorrow and might be lucky if 50 people come to watch. Without this kind of FA Cup fixture, clubs like us would not exist."

Leigh, of the UniBond League premier division, were fortunate in that Peter Beardsley was unavailable, but he will be back for the replay, which will be held at Bolton Wanderers' Reebok Stadium if there is sufficient interest.

Bolton was where Felgate began as a junior before moving on to Rochdale, Crewe Alexandra, Lincoln City and Grimsby Town, winning one cap for Wales in the process. Now a timber merchant, he was lavishly praised by Keegan yesterday. "This was about the best goalkeeping performance I have ever seen," he said.

Felgate had to contend with a succession of headers and volleys from Lehmann, several from point-blank range. The pick of his saves, though, came in the second half when Fulham's other forwards at last came to the fore. A long shot by Trollope was brilliantly tipped over, straight after Hayward had tested his reactions from 15 yards.

Whealing, a former Blackburn Rovers full back, gave Leigh the lead in the twentieth minute when his left-footed free kick bent round the defensive wall and took a slight deflection past Taylor.

Ridings really should have put them further ahead, shooting tamely from a few yards out and, two minutes later, Fulham equalised through a header by Lehmann, who was never properly marked, from Hayward's corner. They will not relish the replay.

FULHAM (4-4-2): M Taylor — G Uhlenbeek, C Coleman, K Symons, R Brevett — W Collins, S Davis (sub: P Trollope, 45min), S Hayward, J Salako (sub: G Horsfield, 70) — D Lehmann, P Peschisolido.
LEIGH RMI (5-3-2): O Felgate — G Prescott, S Locke, G Hill, A Turpin, A Whealing — O Ridings, K Evans, P Smyth — I Monk (sub: L Dryer, 83), N Matthews
Referee: P Rejer.

Felgate: commanding

Lively Reynolds left to rue miss

Emley 1
Rotherham United 1

By Stephen Wood

EMLEY Football Club does not have much of an FA Cup pedigree, but the assortment of firemen, policemen, insurance salesmen and Elvis impersonators presently wearing the claret and blue shirts appear determined to change that beyond redemption.

Last season, the side from the UniBond League premier division advanced to the third round, when they held West Ham United until a late goal by John Hartson ended their wonderful run. At Oakwell yesterday, they began to dream again before another late goal made them focus a little harder on a first-round replay a week tomorrow.

Emley should have beaten their Yorkshire rivals, who stand second in the Nationwide League third division. Rotherham United laboured and the lead that Emley held for 66 minutes could have been extended.

Central to the outcome was Michael Reynolds, the Emley winger, who was a constant tormentor. When his opponents could not contain him, they resorted to foul means. Three of the visitors were booked for late tackles on him.

Reynolds created the Emley goal after ten minutes, cutting across the area and playing a simple pass to Simeon Bambrook. The striker took one touch before placing a powerful drive past Mike Pollitt, the Rotherham goalkeeper. However, Reynolds finished frustrated, probably reliving a miss just after half-time when, with only the goalkeeper to beat, he shot wide.

Miles Thorpe, the striker, and Paul David, the midfield player who scored at Upton Park last season, also missed opportunities before Rotherham found their reprieve. With ten minutes left, Chris Sedgwick's cross was met by a weak header by Michael Thompson, the Emley defender, and the ball fell to Danny Hudson. Hudson, 19, chested it down and drilled a volley into the bottom corner.

Trevor Berry nearly produced a winner for Rotherham in the dying moments, but that would have been tough on Emley. Ronnie Moore, the Rotherham manager, said: "I am just glad we are still in it. At half-time, I had to ask who the part-timers were."

Ronnie Glavin, the Emley manager, said: "I was so proud of my players — again. We know we are capable of causing a shock in the replay, but the players were a bit down in the dressing-room."

EMLEY (4-4-2): A Rhodes — S Nicholson (sub: N Wood, 22min), M Thompson, N Lacey, S Jones — M Reynolds, C Hurst, P David, I Banks — M Thorpe (sub: D Calcutt, 70), S Bambrook.
ROTHERHAM UNITED (4-4-2): M Pollitt — J Ingledow, V Warner, N Richardson, P Hurst — C Sedgwick, O Hudson, O Garner, A Roscoe — R Tracey (sub: P Pettsinger, 52), T Berry.
Referee: O Lewis.

Birmingham put to shame by poor relations

Birmingham City 0
Oxford United 1

By David Powell

THE upsets were not confined to the FA Cup. Oxford United, who famously once reached the quarter-finals as a fourth-division club, registered an act of giant-killing within the Nationwide League first division, the surprise of the day outside the competition for the old trophy.

Oxford celebrated as they though they were Bedlington Terriers. Coaches embraced on the touchline, substitutes rushed on to the pitch to congratulate those who had performed so magnificently. Oxford had spilt ink on the form book and sneered at the respective finances of the clubs.

The surprise was not just that Oxford, without a victory in seven league matches, had won away to a Birmingham City team unbeaten in eight, but that they should have done so against a background of insecurity. Work stopped almost two years ago on a new £21 million ground, the club is some £13 million in debt, administration threatens and players have had to endure the uncertainty of wages being paid late.

Like William Hague's aunt, Oxford could never have predicted the good fortune that was about to befall them. Birmingham were simply not themselves. "Those who were at the match last week and watched us again today will be as puzzled as I am by a performance like that," Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said.

In marked contrast to their visitors, Birmingham are investing £4 million in a new stand, nearly completed, have co-owners who are said to be worth some £400 million between them, have a manager who has spent £12 million on players — though he has recouped £6 million — and had hit a rich vein of form. This was third in the table against second from bottom.

On match-day morning, David Sullivan, one of Birmingham's co-owners, was quoted as saying that the team was the best he had seen at the club. By late afternoon, Francis was talking of changes. "It is starting to become a problem at home," he said. "It is up to me to come up with a formula that will improve it.

"There is only one of two things I can do — consider adopting different tactics at home or change personnel from one week to the next."

To think that two weeks ago Oxford players were threatening to strike and that the team was without Joey Beauchamp, whose £800,000 move to Nottingham Forest was called off on Friday. As the club attempts to cut its wage bill, another player, Danny Hill, was shipped to Cardiff City last week. Yet Malcolm Shotton, the Oxford manager, saw his team survive an early onslaught to achieve a deserved win.

In the opening 25 minutes, Whitehead, the Oxford goalkeeper, was the saviour. However, after Murphy put them ahead in the 27th minute, Birmingham rarely looked like replying, though Furlong struck the bar with a late header.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — G Rowett, O Purse (sub: N Forster, 80min), M Johnson, M Grainger (sub: S Charlton, 65) — J McCarthy, C Holland, C Marsden, P Ndlovu — P Furlong, O Adebola (sub: B Hughes, 37).
OXFORD UNITED (3-5-2): P Whitehead — B Wiseman, L Robinson, P Gilchrist — P Powell, M Gray, M Murphy (sub: A Wright, 87), O Smith, S Marsh — A Thompson, O Windass.
Referee: J Kirkby

Lee manages to enhance his job prospects

Norwich City 0
Wolverhampton W. 0

By Keith Pike

IT IS normally the caretaker's lot to dress down, lock the broom cupboard and keep the place tidy until the new man arrives to sweep clean, but Colin Lee's expensive suit and loftier ambitions tell a different tale. He has been left the keys to the manager's office and likes the swivel of his chair. He will not easily be stripped of his new-found power.

With his miniature moniker and brief CV, Lee is hardly the "big name" that Wolverhampton Wanderers initially had in mind when they persuaded Mark McGhee that leaving by mutual consent was a more lucrative option than being shown the door. But it is surely growing on a club for whom the term "sleeping giant" scarcely does justice. Comatose, more like.

Yet, two days after the departure of McGhee, Wolves won 6-1 away to Bristol City, their biggest victory on the road in 22 years. Three days later, they came from behind again — a feat beyond most McGhee teams — to defeat Sheffield United and, on Saturday, they were within a poor refereeing decision of ending Norwich City's unbeaten Nationwide League first division record at Carrow Road.

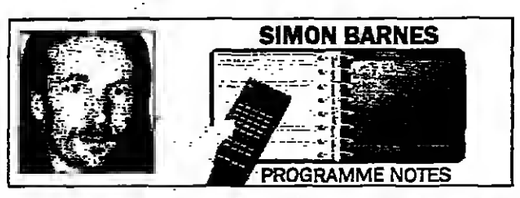
Someone, some day, will be able to offer a non-cynical explanation as to how a group of highly-paid ne'er-do-wells can be transformed overnight by the departure of their manager, but Lee does not have to answer for that. Yet. Although more than 50 applications have dropped through the Molineux letterbox, the wise money in the West Midlands says that they have wasted a stamp and that Lee will be given the job until the end of the season. He has already spent £300,000 and was permitted to fly overseas on Friday to check out another potential recruit.

McGhee's assistant at Reading and Leicester City before their relationship apparently deteriorated, Lee could be considered fortunate that he was not tarnished with the same brush of under-achievement as his former ally. "The board have told me to carry on as if I was the manager and that's what I've done," he said, after a draw that lifted his team back to seventh, but was more two points dropped than one gained. His prospects might have been rosier still had Phil Richards, the referee, not chosen to ignore Mackay's obvious tug at Connolly's sleeve as he raced into the Norwich penalty area with 13 minutes remaining. Lee was "very disappointed" by the decision, but, refreshingly, refused to "make a big deal of it".

His sanguine approach was probably influenced by the fact that Norwich had also suffered at the officials' hands, Jackson, the captain, having been sent off in the 48th minute when a linesman adjudged that he had stamped on Naylor. It appeared more mishap than malice, but, from marginal supremacy, Norwich were then content with mere survival. They will appeal; so, for Wolves, does Lee.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): A Marshall — M Jackson, M Mackay, C Fleming, C Llewellyn — N Adams, L Marshall, P Grant, O Eadie — C Bellamy (sub: K O'Neill, 62min), I Roberts.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — N Emblen, K Curle, O Richards — M Atkins, C Robinson, S Osborn, S Corica, L Naylor — G Whittingham (sub: R Keane, 82), D Connolly
Referee: P Richards.

Seventies recalled as lovely legs hit their stride



England expects and all that — but the difficult question is always to know where one's duty lies. So there I sat, zapper in hand on a Saturday afternoon, debating the question of patriotism. Two rugby matches demanded the attention of any reasonably patriotic person, but both started at 3pm. Which to watch?

The choice was either England stuffing The Netherlands or South Africa stuffing Wales. Where was the greater satisfaction: to go with the stuffer or the stuffee? In the end, I had a debate and reached a committee decision: I would watch the first half of Wales v South Africa and the second half of England v The Netherlands. This turned out to be one of the week's better decisions.

Watching Wales lose at rugby union has been one of sport's minor sporting pleasures for years. The taste of Welsh defeat has never staled for me, every morsel doused with the Tabasco of the Welsh triumphalism of the Seventies. The acute pain felt in the Principality at this falling-off can hardly fail to affect a right-thinking English person. It sets you up for the whole day.

I offered my guest even money and a 30-point start to Wales and found no taker. So I settled back to an afternoon of blow-outs. But then — do you know, a rugby union match broke out? It was a rather wonderful afternoon. Let England go hang. Blow-outs are bad sport and are bad for sport. The United States can teach the Welsh a thing or two about triumphalism, but even the rednecks (that sub-species of *Homo americanus* with the family tree that does not fork) grew weary of watching the Olympic basketball Dream Team winning every game by 50 points.

South Africa were supposed to be the best rugby union team in the world and Wales are emphatically second division. And the god of rugby union favours the big battalions to an extent undreamed of in, say, football.

"Wales with a mountain to climb," Bill McLaren said; don't know how he thinks of 'em, do you? So then Wales scored a try: skimming up the North Face on skates. Not just a try: it was a try that reminded me of — well, Wales. The Welsh team of the Seventies. "Oh, Barry John, he's got a lovely pair of legs, that boy." I can't for the life of me remember whether it was Bill or Cliff Morgan who said that. It sounds as believable in a Welsh as in a Scottish accent. But all those Welsh boys all seemed to have lovely pairs of legs in that tumultuous opening half-hour. It is all very well getting rugby players to try things — you know, passing the ball, running with it and so on — but having them bring it off is another matter altogether.

You can have the best players in the world in terms of speed, handling ability and so on, but without belief, they are sounding brasses and tinkling cymbals.

Without individual and corporate self-certainty, skill is a mere nothing. But Wales played with both these things and it was a wonder to behold.

So much so that I kept in touch with the England game with the merest touch of the zapper. Oh, I say, 47-0 at half-time. Every time I zapped, it was a try. I am not a redneck. I switched back. Wales against South Africa does sound like a Satan v Beelzebub situation — I hope you both lose, as Bill Shankly once said — but this was sport. And very good sport indeed.

And very good sport is better than patriotism any day. The game turned as South Africa were given a penalty try. Neither Bill nor his oppo, Eddie Butler, attempted to explain why. This was a curious oversight, but then no one understands the rules of rugby union.

Zap back. Yawn yawn. England score a century. What on earth was the point of this game? If it was to feed the conceit that rugby union is a global game, it was a dreadful failure. This England v The Netherlands game was a mismatch on the grand scale: 110 points. Pointless.

Back to the real match. I knew Wales would lose it. I admit it: I added my will to the will of the province of West Britain, but I knew they would never quite manage it. South Africa always "seem to get stronger as the match goes on". In other words, they are fit.

The Welsh have never been famous for grace in defeat, and Eddie — not unWelsh — came up with a real beauty. "I know we're not supposed to mention such things," he said, or rather blurted, "but the streaker . . ."

The streaker was the reason that Wales lost. It took three minutes to get him off the pitch and that, Butler said, caused Wales to lose their momentum. Wales lead 20-17. Nude chappie does his stuff. Wales lose 28-20. Nice one, Eddie. You can't argue with facts like that.

'As we all learn, it is generally the offender rather than the victim who cannot forgive'

Resurfacing of old flame draws fiery response

Should a woman take offence if her boyfriend likens her to George Graham? Few hypothetical questions lend themselves to such earnest debate, I find. In the film of *Fever Pitch*, of course, where this moral stumper first arose, one was rather shocked to hear it, since the leading man was clearly casting about for a nice way to say that his girlfriend was a spit for Mrs Thatcher. Stubborn, joyless, thrifty, scary and satisfied with tedium — such was his girlfriend's implied catalogue of qualities. Lucky the poor woman knew so little about football, or she'd have drawn back a fist and knocked him down.

But, since then, people have suggested that it might have been a compliment, since Arsenal really loved George Graham. The fans revered him and relied on him. He was very, very successful and not unattractive. Even on the face of it, the comparison was obviously more of a fillip to a woman than, say: "You know who you remind me of? What's his name? Oh yes, Gordon Strachan!" No girlfriend on earth would put up with that sort of talk, even if the chap was noticing only an innocent resemblance of ankle or pigmentation.

Watching Gorgeous George stroll back into Highbury on Saturday as manager of Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's arch rivals, was as intriguing for an onlooker as it was morally over-complicated for the fans. "Boo," they said automatically, as he climbed down from the visitors' coach. "Judas! Judas! Judas!"

Outrage and a sense of rejection stirred in the farthest corner of their collective memory. Because didn't he used to be their girlfriend? How could he possibly go out with those other blokes? Why had he left Highbury anyway? If only they could remember!

The trouble was, reflex scriptural abuse simply didn't cover this situation and the cries of "Judas!" during the match were rightly faltering and half-hearted. Put it this way: when you've thrown out someone you love and then see them with a new partner (a rival from next door, as it happens, fallen on hard times), the feelings are generally more subtle — especially if, since they left, you've done spectacularly well for yourself with an exotic Gallic partner who is the envy of all your mates.

In such circumstances, you see, you do not normally say "Judas!" You say brightly instead: "Gosh, you look well" — while wrestling internally with nostalgia, guilt and grief. Had Arsenal supporters spent more time reading the painful bits in Jane Austen, they would know this. "You look well, and you haven't changed a bit," you say, bravely, to the once-beloved. "I've been following your career, of course. What do you think of the old place? Yes, we're still here! We were always a bit boring, though, weren't we? Ha, ha — oops, sorry. We've been trying to move, actually, but you wouldn't believe the prices. You look really great. I'm so pleased. It was marvellous the way you bounced back, I must say."

And it goes on like this. Saying nothing, but saying so much. "That's a very nice coat, did you get it up north somewhere? Where is it you've been staying again? Oh, I once spent an afternoon in Leeds, I wish I'd known, I'd have looked you up!" And so on. Only if you then spend an evening together getting drunk do you start on the difficult stuff, such as: "Didn't you ever miss me?" and: "How could you do it? Take that money and ruin everything? We were so happy. Weren't we? *Sniff*. Weren't we?"

This being football, however, Jane Austen has very little impact on the manner of proceedings and on Saturday we had to settle for the wholly inadequate chant of "Judas!" — met in turn by an enigmatic, all-purpose wink from George Graham.

Regretfully, I am beginning to understand what Matthew Parris meant when he once referred to the debased sensibilities of football. While a wink from George Graham may carry the force of a revolver in the ribs from anyone else, the question is still open: what does it mean? Admission? Defiance? Conspiratorial nudge? Mind your own business? Only one thing is clear. Once you've been winked by George Graham — you probably stay winked.

Happily, Graham had quite a lot to wink about on Saturday. One never wants to lose face in front of old flames and he didn't. In fact, his Tottenham team is already responding so well to his astringent management that we all quite forgot to laugh at Ramon Vega, which is often one's only motive for turning up.

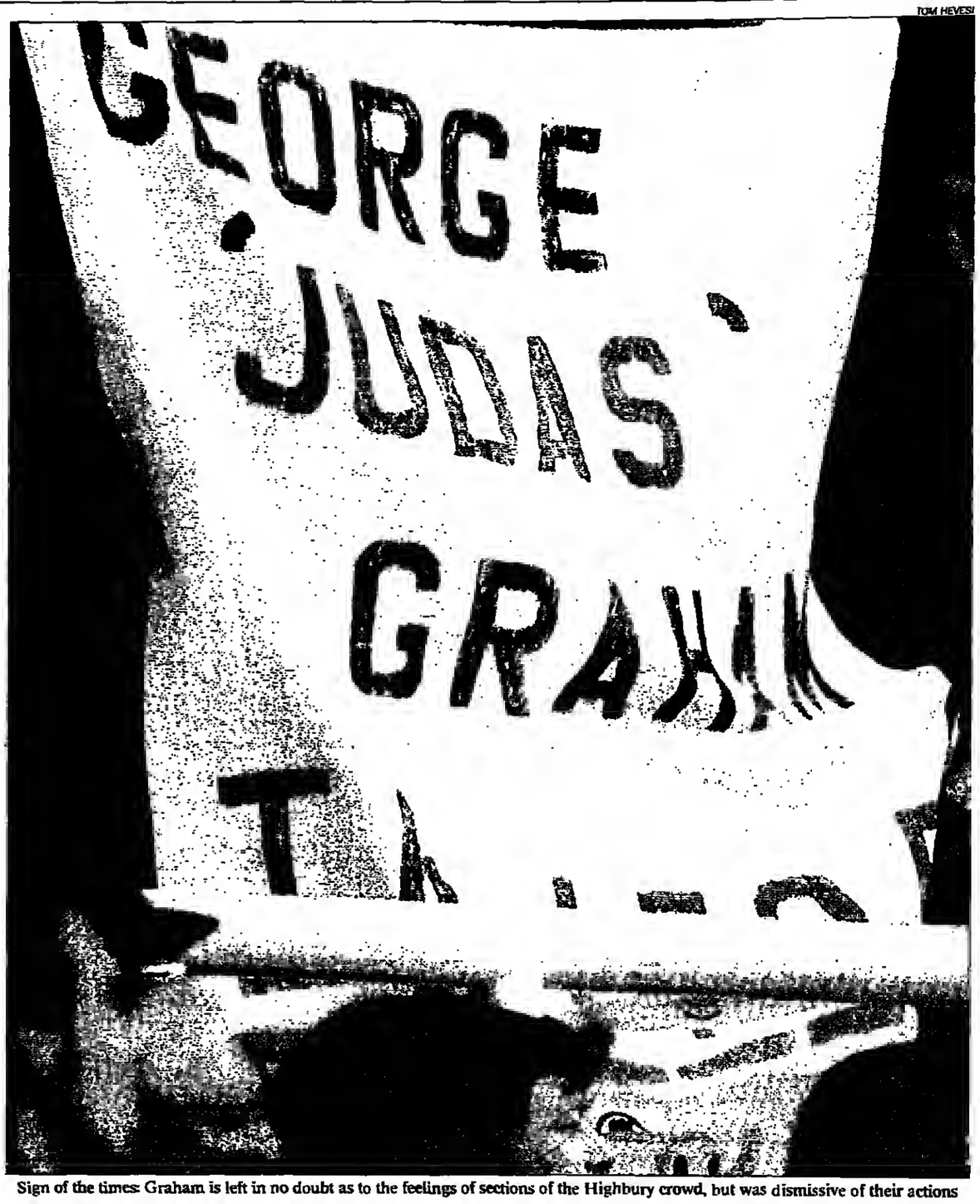
The match lived up to every dire Graham-ish expectation. It was fervid and frustrating; it was gung-ho and goalless; and David Ginola was not allowed to play, for fear of importing unwelcome maverick flair.

Amid a roar of encouraging cheers, Arsenal had all the energetic possession in midfield and made all the chances, but unfailingly bounced off a negative force-field whenever they approached the goal. Ray Parlour was in questionable form, but Emmanuel Petit was fabulous and Arsenal deserved more. They were never going to get it, though, especially with Dennis Bergkamp injured.

I Hear You Knocking ought to be Graham's theme song, if it isn't already. You can imagine him singing it in the bath after matches. "I hear you knocking (ooh-bi-wala, ooh-bi-wala). But you can't come in." At his press conference, Graham was asked whether it "hurt" to hear his old supporter yelling the J-word. He said: "Nah, not at all, no problem. Players always get it when they go back to their old clubs." Asked whether he would be sharing a drink with the directors who dismissed him, Graham pointedly changed the subject. I think he believes that he was hard done by when he was sacked for the bung, but there's a faint chance that he also feels guilty. As we all learn sooner or later, it is generally the offender rather than the victim who cannot forgive. Whether the supporters got together before the match and tried out a chant that went: "Lovely coat, George, been keeping well, then?" I don't know. It would be pleasant to think so; pleasant also to imagine them trying: "Did you hear about us winning the Double? Nice to have you back in the area, we should do this more often."

Alas, I suspect the Judas thing was the only option that came to mind. Short and memorable, it packs a message and, being something of an overstatement, it's also terribly easy to shrug off and forget about.

TOM HEVESI



Sign of the times: Graham is left in no doubt as to the feelings of sections of the Highbury crowd, but was dismissive of their actions

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CHANGING TIMES

SPORTS LETTERS

Generosity to be emulated

From Mr Collin Rossini

Sir, In a footballing world of unscrupulous fat cat reality, how heartening it is to find a wonderful exception.

Real Mallorca, the Spanish league leaders, donated all £250,000 in gate receipts from their home game against Villarreal to the disaster relief fund for victims of the Central American hurricane.

The world may be a round ball to football fans, but it is a real place of mire and ugly survival for many. What a gesture it would be for the game's tainted image if FA Carling Premiership clubs donated similar sums — but then pigs or fat cats might fly!

Yours,
COLLIN ROSSINI,
1a Steele House,
Harwich,
Essex,
CO12 3PN.

Yellow medicine

From Mr Geoffrey Silman

Sir, There seems to be a simple answer to Dennis Bergkamp's flying phobia in relation to the trip to Athens in the European Cup Champions' League at the beginning of December. If he were to be booked in the match at Wembley against Lens on November 25, he would be banned from the Greek match.

Whilst I hesitate to recommend such a deliberate ploy, I seem to recall that when he was in sensational form during the early months of last season, he received regular bookings. His subdued performances this season have coincided with not a single yellow card in FA Carling Premiership matches this season. This seems to me to be more than a coincidence. After all, he was booked against Dynamo Kiev at Wembley and scored.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. SILMAN,
Osprey House,
78 Wigmore Street,
W1H 9DQ.

Financial plight of small football clubs

From Mr Bob Russell, MP for Colchester (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I write to express my displeasure at the article by Mark Hodkinson (November 7) in which he described my team, Colchester United, as the "glamour-ghouls of football".

Mr Hodkinson would be doing a big service to professional football — and, in particular, many of the smaller clubs — if he were to write an article about how they are struggling to survive in an era when football has never had so much money, but, because the game is controlled by a handful of greedy clubs, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening by the day.

The football authorities are failing the great majority of the nation's clubs. The Government has refused to help — only last week, my request in the House of Commons that Parliament should act where football authorities have failed and use the taxation system to redistribute money more fairly was rejected.

With the football authorities and Government ignoring the wider interests of the professional game, it is up to people like Mr Hodkinson to draw attention to the serious situation that threatens the very existence of many smaller clubs.

Yours sincerely,
BOB RUSSELL,
Corporate House, Queen Street,
Colchester CO1 2PG.

Twin towers

From Mr Peter Hazell

Sir, For several years, Graham Kelly has been the chief executive of the Football Association, yet his statement that destroying Wembley stadium's twin towers is "not controversial" and they are "not significant" as part of a new stadium (report, November 9) displays an astonishing level of ignorance of the game's traditions and the feelings of the vast majority of football fans (and, I imagine, players) in this country and worldwide.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HAZELL,
28 Artillery Street,
Colchester, CO1 2JL.
peter.c.hazell@bt.com

Sports letters, with daytime telephone number, may be faxed to 0171-782 5211. E-mail, including a postal address, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

This week in THE TIMES

Tomorrow
Champion jockey Tony McCoy faces a lengthy ban for excessive use of the whip

Wednesday
Glenn Hoddle (above) has the chance to experiment with his England team against the Czech Republic at Wembley

Friday
The Ashes series begins overnight with the first Test match between Australia and England at Brisbane

Saturday
Football Saturday: the biggest and best guide to the weekend including the Premiership match-by-match preview, Oliver Holt, Robert Elms and Lynne Truss

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stride

sin but I knew they would never quite manage it. South Africa always "seem to get stronger as the match goes on". In other words, they are fit.

The Welsh have never been famous for grace in defeat, and Eddie — not unWelsh — came up with a real beauty. "I know we're not supposed to mention such things," he said, "or rather blurted, "but the streaker ..."

The streaker was the reason that Wales lost. It took three minutes to get him off the pitch and that, Butler said, caused Wales to lose their momentum. Wales lead 30-17. Nude chappie does his stuff. Wales lose 29-20. Nice one, Eddie. You can't argue with facts like that.

not forgive'

FOOTBALL

Real pay high price for lack of Suker punch

ROB HUGHES

Overseas View

Jean-Marc Bosman continues to have much to answer for in the changing patterns of European football. Since his freedom of contract victory in the European Court, clubs that were nobodies have found that, by recruiting as many irreverent foreigners as they can afford, they can trample over the long-established hierarchy of domestic leagues.

Steve McManaman will be particularly interested in the stunning victory by Celta Vigo over Real Madrid in the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium on Saturday — the first time that the little club from northwest Spain has had the temerity to win in the capital since 1948.

Of course, the scorers were overseas players, people with neither respect nor knowledge of the rites of passage in Spanish football history. Before 80,000 Madrileños, Lubo Penev, a Bulgarian, and Claude Makalele, a French midfield player, put Celta two goals up. Roberto Carlos, one of Madrid's Brazilians, reduced the arrears and finally Davor Suker, such a hero for Croatia at the World Cup, failed to equalise from the penalty spot.

As a result, Celta, unbeaten this season, leapfrogged over Real in the Spanish league table — only days after Lorenzo Sanz, the Real president, had broadcast that he, in all his cleverness, had stolen a march on half of the elite clubs of Europe and had secured, through an agent, the services of McManaman after this season. Liverpool scarcely hide the resignation that McManaman, who felt like a chattle when Barcelona interviewed and dropped him a year ago, will move abroad for higher returns but for no fee once his contract is up next June.

It is one of the sillier compromises in Fifa rules that players or their licensed agents can begin negotiating the next move on January 1 in the year that their contract legally expires. Sanz, aware of speculation that Internazionale, among half a dozen Italian clubs, were biding their time to entice McManaman, to lure his rare ability to run at retreating defences, appears to have been cavalier.

It is nothing unusual for Sanz. He has little respect for authority and the ultimate belief that Real, the European champions, must go forward at all costs. Like president, like team, it seems: while in England we have the cliché that the club reflects the manager, abroad it is so often the president who buys the players and who satisfies first of all his own notion of how soccer should be performed.

Guus Hiddink, the latest coach at the Bernabéu, has realised that his inheritance in the Real playing staff is top-heavy with forwards and naive, to say the least, in defence. He is not aided by injuries to Fernando Hierro, Fernando Redondo and Christian Karembeu; his last need might be another attacking player with the instincts of McManaman, but he will get what his president decides.

And what of Celta? They, of course, stand in the way of Liverpool regaining self-respect through the European route. They are Liverpool's next opponents in the Uefa Cup, having dispensed impressively with Aston Villa, and possess the techniques, temperaments and talents of free-thinking players, 13 of them from no less than eight foreign countries.

A touch of something Spanish? Oh yes, a heavy one, for, in Miguel "Michel" Salgado, they have the defender recently drafted into the Spain team that is to play a friendly in Italy on Wednesday. Salgado was responsible last season for breaking the leg — deliberately, the Spanish federation concluded — of Juninho.

The final word on Real's loss of half a century of omnipotence over Celta involves Suker. He struggles for consistency and to get a place in the line-up and his left foot, the most potent finishing weapon among world-class strikers, erred on Saturday.

During the World Cup, Suker had invoked the name of God for blessing Croatia's campaign and, when Manuel Vazguez Montalban, one of Spain's most learned intellectuals, took Suker to task for such sacrilege, the player took months to research and then write his own intellectual response. "There are times when one must thank God for even the smallest things," Suker wrote. "As Thomas Mann said, a face in absolute values, however illusory they may be, is one of man's vital needs." Kicking the ball straight from the penalty spot is another.

As this week the same individuals are recruited for national duty, the Irish, too, have been playing with words. "Fifa fair play?" Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, mused on BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday. "We've decided it stands for Forget Irish Football Altogether." Ireland feel compromised in preparing for their Euro 2000 qualifying match against Yugoslavia in Belgrade because, while the Yugoslavs are waiting at home, McCarthy may not know until this lunchtime which players are fit. Still, he is philosophical. "We have had little upsets," he said. "Their country's been at war, y'know."

No way through: Raúl, of Real Madrid, is tackled by Berges, the Celta Vigo captain, in his side's defeat on Saturday

Kanchelskis warms to his task

BY PHIL GORDON

MAYBE Andrei Kanchelskis recognises something familiar in the Ibrox air. The Govan tones of his master's voice may only be a memory, but the capricious Ukrainian is picking up the messaage once more.

Alex Ferguson is the only coach to have coaxed the best out of Kanchelskis. The Manchester United manager's devotion to the work ethic, that was nurtured during his days in the Clydeside shipyards just a mile from Ibrox, eveo had the slothful winger among his disciples for a spell.

It could not be sustained, of course, which was why the winger left Old Trafford and flattered to deceive at both Everton and Fiorentina. Those two underachieving spells brought nothing but suspicioo when Dick Advocaat paid £5.5 million to take Kanchelskis to Glasgow four months ago. Yet the Rangers coach is slowly seeing his faith repaid by the club's record signing. Kanchelskis hitting the winning goal in the 2-1 success against Aberdeen on Saturday.

Two goals in two games, plus a basket of assists, indicate that he is starting to find life under Advocaat's stern regime to his liking. "I make no guarantees to anyone," Advocaat said. "No one can count on a place in the team unless they are doing well in every game."

With such high demands, it seemed unlikely that Kanchelskis, who arrived from Italy with a few more curves than he did when he first came to Britain six years ago, would have been tolerated long by Advocaat, but the Dutchman has imposed his standards on the occasional performer to such an extent that Kanchelskis has even learnt how to tackle back. Against Bayer Leverkusen recently, he was tracking and tackling in his own half with the vigour of a Bryan Robson.

The driving run that took him into the Aberdeen penalty area in the 81st minute at Ibrox on Saturday illustrated Kanchelskis's renewed appetite. The left-foot shot should have been saved by Jim Leighton, but Rangers cared little about that. The goal had come at the right time for a side who seemed ready to settle for a draw after Eoin Jess's eighth goal of the season had nullified an early lead provided by a shot from Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

At the same time as Kanchelskis scored, Celtic conceded a decisive goal to St Johnstone that, in tandem with the Ukrainian's, widens the gap between the Old Firm teams to ten points ahead of the derby meeting at Celtic Park next week.

Jozef Venglos, the Celtic coach, has been unhappy about the scorn that followed his recruitment of Vidar Riseth in September because of the Norwegian's lack of profile. Riseth made a name for himself on Saturday, but not in the way that he or Venglos would have wanted. He was responsible for both St Johnstone goals, the first scored by Miguel Simao in first-half injury time and the winner by Kieran McAnespie in the 78th minute.

Kilmarnock slipped further behind Rangers with a 1-1 draw at Dundee, but the gap would be wider than six points had Jerome Vareille's wonderful volley not cancelled out the damage done by Eddie Annand's opening goal for Dundee.

Motherwell overtook Heart of Midlothian to go fifth with an enthralling 3-2 victory between the two at Fir Park. Owen Coyle scored two goals and John Spencer the other to bring the partnership's haul to seven in four matches.

ICE HOCKEY

Fuyarchuk bemused as injuries pile up

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

JIM FUYARCHUK, the coach of London Knights, is beginning to wonder what more can happen. Already without Ian Cooper, Debb Carpenter, Kelly Glowa and Sonny Mignacca, he lost yet another player to injury during the home defeat on Saturday by Bracknell Bees.

Jason Campeau, playing in spite of a badly bruised foot, took an elbow to the head and retired early in the first period with concussion. Nick Poole, although dressed for the game, was unwell, leaving Fuyarchuk with only eight fit forwards. The only surprise was that Bracknell, who dominated the game for long spells, took until overtime to win it. London led 1-0 at the end of the first period, 2-1 at the end of the second and 3-1 early in the third. The Bees drew level with just over nine minutes to go and Chris Brant scored his second goal of the evening in the first minute of overtime to secure the win, which took Bracknell into fourth place in the Sekonda Superleague.

The Knights are now seventh, but their next home game is against Newcastle Riverkings, the bottom club, and they must hope for better news about their injured players and a chance to improve their record.

Newcastle scored the only goal of the first period in Nottingham and led 2-0 midway through the game, only to see the Panthers score four times without reply and condemn them to the bottom of the table. The Panthers are another team with injury problems and with Corey Beaulieu ruled out, Mike Blaisdell, their coach, returned to action.

The win took the Panthers into second place, two points behind Manchester Storm, who were beaten for only the second time in the league, 4-3 by Ayr Scottish Eagles. This was another game in which the winners came from behind. Goals by Rick Brebant and Kevin Hoffman gave the Storm a 2-0 lead early in the second period, but it was 3-3 by the second interval and Ryan Kummu scored the only goal of the final period.

SAILING

Beaming MacArthur continues to impress

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE succession of storms that have afflicted the Route du Rhum fleet for the first week of racing are out of the way as the skippers move on to tackle a huge high-pressure system that promises a new kind of exhaustion as they attempt to tease as much speed from their boats as possible.

The impressive start made by Ellen MacArthur, of Great Britain, on board the Adrian Thompson-designed Open 50, Kingfisher, continues to be one of the features of the race. Now about one-third of the way to the finish at Guadeloupe, MacArthur is still well up in the middle of the faster Open 60s and has overtaken another in the past day or so.

A day of beam-reaching — Kingfisher's fastest point of sail — saw MacArthur overhaul Philippe Monnet in the Open 60, Uunet, a move that promotes her to sixth monohull overall out of 17 starters and thirteenth place in the race as a whole, including the big multihulls that lead the fleet. After 1,700 miles, MacArthur has seven Open 60s astern of her. Yesterday, she was about 120 miles behind the monohull leader, Thomas Coville in Yves Parlier's Aquitaine Innovations, and just 12 miles behind Raphael Dinelli, in Sodebo, his new Open 60, which features a canting rig.

"Things have been looking up," MacArthur said in a message on Saturday. "We've been reaching for the past four hours at 12-19 knots. Great to have Kingfisher going like a train. Power-reaching is definitely her forté and I'm learning a lot about sail configurations and the function of the asymmetric [dagger] boards."

For the first time in the race, MacArthur is getting some proper sleep, though never more than two hours at a time, and is getting the chance to sort the boat out after eight wet, noisy and hard days. "It has been fantastic to be able to sail her rather than simply survive," she said. "The storms of past week were horrendous. I now have a chance to walk on her decks rather than crawl and place something on a surface without it ending up in the bilge."

Ahead of Kingfisher, a tight battle for the lead of the monohull fleet is raging between Coville, the experienced Figaro sailor, and Catherine Chabaud, the Vendée Globe veteran, in Whirlpool Europe 2, her new Marc Lombard-designed 60. Yesterday, they were just 15 miles apart as they struggled in light airs with about 2,200 miles still to sail to the finish.

The lighter offwind conditions should see the bigger 60s start to pull away from MacArthur, who, like most competitors, has chosen the shortest great circle route across the Atlantic. One exception is Monnet, who has taken the gamble of heading south in the search of steady trade winds to power him westwards to the Caribbean.

The new overall fleet leader is Alain Gautier, the Frenchman, in Broceliande, a 60-foot trimaran. He had 1,730 miles still to sail yesterday.

BOXING

Lueshing win avoids head blows

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NEVER before had Kevin Lueshing been involved in such an uneventful contest as when he met Nicky Thurbin at Cheshunt on Saturday. Usually, the light-middleweight from Beckenham can be relied on to provide moments of explosive action, but there was never much chance of excitement in this contest as Lueshing put a headlock on Thurbin every time the Loughton man rushed in to land a blow.

Dave Parris, the referee, often had to work harder than the boxers, pulling them apart and warning them about holding. Parris even had to penalise Lueshing a point in the eleventh round for holding.

Yet, after lifting the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) inter-continental title on a majority decision, Lueshing explained why he had had to resort to such negative methods — he was afraid of being seriously injured.

Having been told before the bout by the British Boxing Board of Control that his medical condition would have to be monitored after every contest because his brain scan was causing some concern to the neurologists, Lueshing had decided he was not going to take blows to the head if he could help it.

"When they told me I had failed my test, that really hit me. My whole life just flashed in front of me," Lueshing said. "At the back of my mind was the thought: 'What if something happened to me, after Spencer Oliver and Gerald McClellan and all that?' That's why I wasn't going to have a head-to-head with him. I was even frightened of clashing heads."

Lueshing now faces the daunting prospect of challenging Harry Simon, of South Africa, the WBO champion. In view of the fact that Lueshing has not met anybody with the kind of power that Simon carries, it is just as well that the Board has decided to monitor his progress bout by bout.

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ROWING

Underdogs spring surprise on Searles

By Mike Rosewell

GREAT BRITAIN squad crews took the top two places in the Fullers Fours Head from Mortlake to Putney on Saturday, although not in the expected order. The favourites for the quadruple sculls were the heavyweight Kingston/Molesey combination of Greg and Jonny Searle, partnered by the country's leading double of Colin Greenaway and Simon Goodbrand. Starting third, they overhauled the 1997 winners — a German quartet from Mainz — and came off the water pleased with both the rhythm and steeringof Greg Searle.

However, among the new entries was a young British lightweight quad that included three 1998 internationals — Tom Middleton, Tim Male and Matthew Beechey — and Ian Watson, the spare man in the Britain squad this year. They scythed through slower club crews and were given the verdict over their heavyweight opponents by 0.3sec.

The world champion coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell, with Fred Scarlett substituting for the injured Tim Foster, retained the coxless four title, but only just. The enforced move of Redgrave from the No 2 to No 3 seat did not make his steering dudes easier.

Only four quad sculls bettered their time, but they were just 1sec ahead of the leading Cambridge crew. The Leander coxed four, all of whom are present internationals, won their class by 3sec from a Molesey/Leander crew of former Britain internationals.

Britain's international women convincingly took their main classes. The top quad included Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay, both of whom are reigning world champions and who were joined by Guin Batten and Elise Laverick.

Photograph, page 43

RUGBY LEAGUE: DROPPED GOAL IN FINAL SECONDS SAVES BRITAIN'S FACE BUT MERELY PAPERS OVER THE CRACKS

Smith times rescue to perfection

Great Britain 23
New Zealand.....23

By Christopher Irvine

NATURALLY, it involved the last kick of the match, but a cosmedc draw cannot camouflage the cracks that were evident throughout the Lincoln Finance series. At least Great Britain's reacquaintance with pride and self-belief at Watford on Saturday night prevented the humiliadon of a first 3-0 whitewash by New Zealand on English soil.

Whereas Britain got their timing hopelessly awry at Huddersfield, where they paid for not playing to the referee's half-time whistle, and again at Bolton, where their watches packed up altogether in the second half, Tony Smith managed to drop a priceless goal and level the score with the clock run down but the ball still in play.

Not only had Smith never dropped a goal in his life, the joke is that he has two wooden legs, yet the Wigan scrum half's hand-eye combination and right foot were inch-perfect. In addition, it was his try with two minutes left and Andy Farrell's conversion that had dragged Britain back to within a point of a New Zealand side with history on their minds and their eye off the ball.

It was entirely appropriate that Smith's judgment saved Britain's face, just as the jaws of defeat were clamping shut. There have been more naturally-gifted No 7s, but few with his resolve, which was manifest even in the earlier losses.

"He's been a revelation for us. He's learned and been willing to push other players, which he's never done before, so that bodes well for the future," Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, said.

For the moment, nobody is pretending that the foundations are anything like in place. New Zealand let a 22-10 lead slip, but still ended as the only unbeaten touring Kiwi side in 90 years. If Goodway felt six days was insufficient preparation for a series, wait until next October, when the Britain party is expected to leave for Australia a day after the JJB Super League Grand Final.

Players who also imagined that 1998 was an arduous enough season must get used to a bigger workload next year. While clubs call the tune and promulgate the barmy theory that more matches means better, the international bolted on to the season will continue to be an after-thought. It is a damaging imbalance. Without the profile generated at international level, the domestic game loses out.

With midweek fixtures back on the agenda and little or no obvious room to squeeze in representative competition, the constraints of the job for Goodway look to be tightening. "With the Rugby Football League, we'll be planning a training programme and doing what we need to do to help us along. We'll get co-operation from clubs if we give them notice. We feel there's a lot more to come," he said.

Goodway's optimism is well-founded, on the basis of individual performances on Saturday. Terry Newton and Sean Long stepped into the breach and, on their full debuts, supplied Britain with the momentum around the rucks and improvisation to help run the New Zealand forwards around and catch them on the back foot. It is a ploy that Australia used to beat New Zealand last month.

Goodway singled out Newton for an honorary mendon. Exhausdon forced the hooker off early in the second half and Britain's shape and cohesion was restored only with his return, in harness with Long's sniping runs and waltz through the New Zealand defence, which began the recovery in the 66th minute.

Like Iestyn Harris, from whom Long took over at stand-off half, Goodway looked to have a blind spot with the St Helens player, until injury forced his hand. Yet the most makeshift side summoned the necessary spirit after New Zealand had run riot, just as they had done at Bolton.

Again, Britain held an eight-point lead at the interval and blew it, after Jason Robinson became the first Britain player to score a try in all three matches against New Zealand and Australia — albeit in a losing cause in successive series. With Sculthorpe and Senior in the sin-bin at the start of the second period, the home side were sbt open by three sumptuous tries in 20 minutes by Robbie and Henry Paul, all laid on by Stacey Jones.

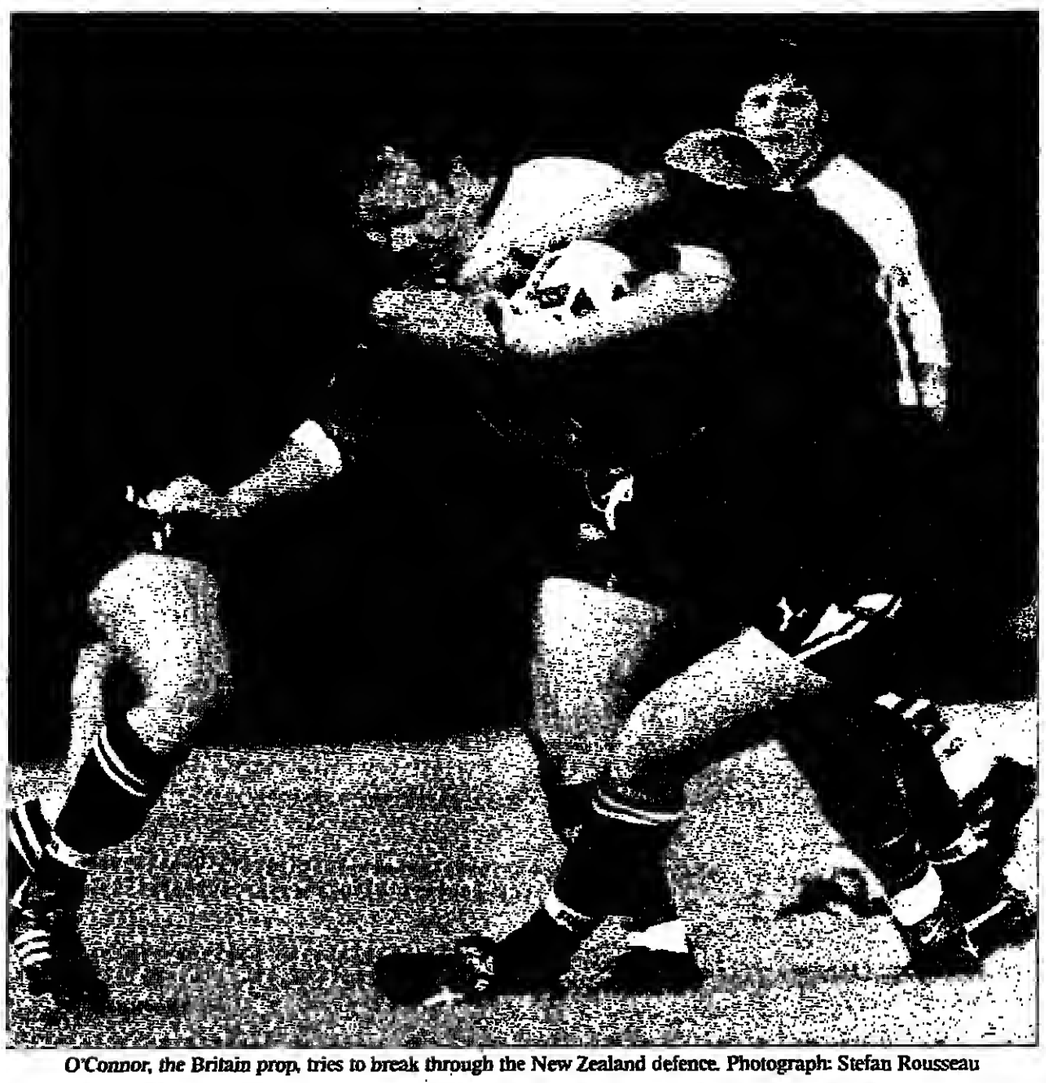
Not only were Britain not strong and powerful enough up front, nobody held a candle to Jones's creative genius. His dropped goal to take New Zealand 23-16 clear looked to be the denouement of another tour de force. Yet everyone reckoned without Smith, whose dropped goal — "fortunately, I'd no time to think," he said — ended the season on a more upbeat note than it would have done if his aim had been askew.

SCORERS: Great Britain: Tries: Robinson Long, Smith **Goals:** Farrell (5) **Dropped goal:** Smith **New Zealand: Tries:** R Paul (2), H Paul **Goals:** Halligan (5; **Dropped goal:** Jones

GREAT BRITAIN: K Radlinski (Wigan Warriors) **J Robinson** (Wigan Warriors), **G Connolly** (Wigan Warriors), **K Senior** (Sheffield Eagles) **F Cummins** (Leeds Rhinos), **S Long** (St Helens), **A Smith** (Wigan Warriors) **T O'Connor** (Wigan Warriors), **T Newton** (Leeds Rhinos), **D Laughton** (Sheffield Eagles), **C Joynt** (St Helens), **P Sculthorpe** (St Helens), **A Farrell** (Wigan Warriors) **Substitutes: D Fleary** (Leeds Rhinos), **S Haughton** (Wigan Warriors), **M Forshaw** (Bradford Bulls), **L Gilmour** (Wigan Warriors).

NEW ZEALAND: R Barnett (Sydney City), **S Hoppe** (Auckland Warriors), **K Iro** (St Helens), **R Wiki** (Canberra Raiders), **O Halligan** (Canterbury Bulldogs), **R Paul** (Bradford Bulls), **S Jones** (Auckland Warriors), **J Vagana** (Auckland Warriors), **S Eru** (Auckland Warriors) **O Pongia** (Auckland Warriors), **S Kearney** (Auckland Warriors), **J McCracken** (Parramatta), **L Swan** (Auckland Warriors) **Substitutes: H Paul** (Bradford Bulls), **C Smith** (Illawarra), **N Cayless** (Parramatta), **A Puletua** (Penrith Panthers)

Referee: W Harrigan (Australia)



O'Connor, the Britain prop, tries to break through the New Zealand defence. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

Workload increases for players next year

By Christopher Irvine

THE argument from coaches and players that quality should come before quantity has been lost in a return next year to the pre-summer days of 30 regular fixtures in an expanded 14-team JJB Super League, which will also start a month earlier, on March 5.

Clubs will play an addidonal seven matches next season before the top-five play-offs, including a maximum of three in midweek. Twelve Wednesdays have been set aside between May and August in order that the domestic season can finish sooner, on October 9, to allow Great Britain to take part in a three-nation series with Australia and New Zealand in the southern hemisphere.

The 14 teams will meet each other on a home and away basis and then the first four rounds of matches, which deliberately include some of the more attractive fixtures, will be repeated to make up the figure of 30 that the clubs see as necessary to improve their ability to generate income and which they feel that full-time players can handle without being overplayed.

It means Wigan Warriors, the champions, and Leeds Rhinos, the runners-up last season, will meet one another three times, as will Wigan and St Helens and Leeds and Bradford Bulls. Wigan open the season against Hull Sharks in a televised match on March 5 and Gateshead Thunder, the new club, will entertain Leeds Rhinos two days later. Wakefield Trinity, the first division champions, have a first match away to Castleford Tigers.

1999 SEASON OPENING FIXTURES: JJB Super League: March 5: Wigan Warriors v Hull Sharks* **March 7:** Gateshead Thunder v Leeds Rhinos*, Bradford Bulls v Sheffield Eagles; Castleford Tigers v Wakefield Trinity, Halifax Blue Sox v Warrington Wolves, London Broncos v Huddersfield Giants, Salford Reds v St Helens. *Live television coverage on Sky Sports.

TOP-FIVE PLAY-OFFS: Sept 17-19: Elimination and qualifying play-offs **Sept 24-26:** Elimination and qualifying semi-finals **Oct 3:** Final eliminator **Oct 9:** Grand Final (Old Trafford)

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

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Age no barrier to walking tall

Anna Foster on an addictive activity that has become essential to many athletes in their twilight years

SPORT FOR ALL

While most sports enthusiasts of a certain age expect to do no more than reach for their Sanatogen and settle down to watch *Grandstand*, Anne von Bismarck has other ideas. The 71-year-old is a champion race walker, who likes nothing better than a punishing 20-kilometre road race. "I don't think about my age," she said. "Yes, it's painful, but I just push myself on."

Von Bismarck endures the intensive training schedule of an athlete 50 years younger, but her obsession with race walking has brought her European championship gold medals for veterans at five and ten kilometres, as well as the world veteran championships gold at 20 kilometres.

While most men and women give up their chosen sport in their middle years, race walkers compete vigorously into their 70s and 80s. Apart from bowls and, perhaps, swimming, there is no sport that offers such competitive recreation for veterans.

Indeed, they sometimes outclass the youngsters. At the Commonwealth Games, two members of the Great Britain team were veterans: Chris Maddocks, 41, came fifth in the men's 20 kilometres and Kim Braznell, 42, finished eighth in the women's ten kilometres.

Peter Cassidy, the general secretary of the Race Walking Association (RWA), says that the sport is thriving among veterans, with a packed annual calendar of events. It takes just one hour to learn the technique and it offers the chance to get fit without the risk of injury. "If you walk with a poor technique, you won't go fast, but you won't pull a muscle either," he said.

Some race walkers transfer from other sports because of injury. Cath Reader was a half-marathon runner before at 34, she damaged her knees. In hospital, she was devastated to be told that she would never be able to run again.

"I'm very competitive and, while I recovered, I went to see a road race," she said. "I learnt the basics and entered the national veteran 10k race walking championship and won." Reader, now 43, set up the Eastern Veterans' League and has won world and European titles. "It's not a sport for crocks, it's a whole body workout," she said.

Race walking demands time and money. Von Bismarck must travel to an Essex club to train because clubs near Bournemouth, where she lives, do not offer race walking. She took a job as a silver service waitress at the Swallow Highcliff Hotel in Bournemouth four years ago to fund her travel costs. Initially, the hotel was sceptical because of her age, until she explained that she needed the money for her sport. Lawder Smith, the hotel's general manager, describes her as "the fastest waitress in the world". Von Bismarck went to Italy for the European championships in September and won the five kilometres track race and the ten kilometres road race.

Age is no barrier to race walking. George Mitchell, 83, trains twice a week at Birchfield Harriers in Sutton Coldfield and competes in between 20 and 30 races a year. He has been racing since 1931 and is still going strong. He said: "Apart from the health benefits, I enjoy race walking because it keeps me out of the house."

When Mitchell was 54, he became a Centurion, one of a select group of around 1,000 race walkers who have walked 100 miles inside 24 hours. Mitchell believes that older people like race walking because they are patient. "Young people like to get things over with," he said.

While the veterans are thriving, race walking in general is in decline. The heyday of the sport ran from the Thirties to the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964: where Ken Matthews, from Great Britain, won gold in the 20 kilometres road race and Paul Nihill, also from Britain, won silver in the 50 kilometres event. Since then, though, jogging, cycling and swimming have outstripped race walking as general fitness sports.

Cassidy thinks that the sport has an image problem. While jogging flatters the figure, race walking, with its hip-wiggling gait, looks peculiar. A reader's letter to a recent issue of *Athletics Weekly* described the "bizarre sight of a field of 20-odd young women bobbing up and down around the track in a manner suggestive of constipated plastic ducks in a funfair shooting gallery". But that does not deter the obsessed. Cath Reader said: "People who insult you are usually fat and smoking, so I think: 'Blow you.'"

Race walkers are also aware that the strength of the sport among veterans tends to rely on nostalgia for the past and a failure to look forward. Why, for example, is there no race walking section in the London Marathon, unlike the New York Marathon? Cassidy says that "we have lost opportunities to put race walking in the shop window". Not surprisingly, there are no big commercial sponsors, although the RWA is examining ways in which it could attract sponsorship. The RWA needs to boost its profile, but administration lacks appeal when you can compete into your 80s.

While the sport may be in its twilight years, those participants who continue to taunt Father Time show no signs of fading. Mitchell intends to carry on beyond 85 and Von Bismarck has no intention of giving up. She said: "I don't know whether I'll stay as good as I am, but it doesn't matter. I just go for every title that's going."

PHIL WEIMANN

Von Bismarck, described as the fastest waitress in the world by her employer, trains on the beach at Bournemouth after work

FACT BOX

Race walking is a club-based sport. Coverage is patchy, but it is strong in Essex, Sussex, Surrey, the West Midlands, Leicester, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Yorkshire. About 100 clubs are affiliated to the Race Walking Association (RWA). Club membership costs between £15 and £25.

The RWA offers an introductory package that includes a booklet on how to start training, a fixture list and details of local clubs. Start-up costs are low: all you needs are trainers and a tracksuit.

The Race Walking Association can be contacted at Hufflers, Heards Lane, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0SF (Tel: 01277 220687).

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Allied Dunbar Premiership: Richards bemoans loss of key players as Leicester suffer heavy defeat

Wasps give leaders nasty sting

Wasps 45
Leicester.....17

By John Hopkins

IT IS easy to say that Wasps should have walked this game. Leicester were without eight men, on World Cup duty for England, and four other internationals as well. As events at Wembley 24 hours earlier had shown, however, the game does not always go to form.

It did this time, though. Leicester have maintained their position at the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but their youngsters, eight of whom were under 21, though marshalled beautifully by Joel Stransky, were outplayed if not outclassed. Players such as Lewis Moody, Paul Gustard and Leon Lloyd showed up well and their development will not have been harmed by this game, even though they were no match for the doughty, hard-nosed Wasps. It was Leicester's biggest defeat since losing to Bath two seasons ago.

Dean Richards, the Leicester team manager, was critical of the Mayfair Agreement, which forced Leicester to play this game when, with so many absentees, they would rather have not. "I am not going to moan," Richards said, before going on to do just that. "It has happened and we have to get on and hopefully win all our remaining games, but I find it incredible that it can be decided to play a game such as this on an international weekend.

"Certain games can make or break a season and this was one of them. The possibility of winning away from home is all-important and that opportunity for us to do so was taken away as soon as the game was assigned to this particular day. It makes the league a lottery."

It was no surprise that Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, did not agree. "The rules have been made; we have to play by them," Melville said. "It is not ideal that some teams did not have to play this weekend. It would be better if we all played, but the agreement was made and we have to honour it."

Leicester fought their way back to 11-10 just before half-time, but that was as near as they got. Whenever Wasps wanted to apply pressure, they turned to their forwards. Men such as Trevor Leota, who scored two tries, had a magnificent game in the loose, as did Paul Volley, who also scored two tries. Often, Alex King kicked to the corners and Wasps drove for the line from the ensuing lineout. It was not pretty, but it worked in much the same way as Newcastle's play is built on a superstructure created by their massive forwards.

Richards rightly singled out for praise Moody and Gustard, whose alertness brought him a try, Jamie Hamilton at scrum half and Lloyd, but after half-time there was only one team in it. Wasps exerted enormous pressure for long periods and it was a question of when and how many they would score.

Kenny Logan looks revitalised, a man anxious to work. His kicking brought Wasps 15 points; his try was quintessentially Wasps on a day such as this. Wasps had a scrum almost on the Leicester line. They wheeled the scrum to open up space for Logan and the left wing scored the try that gave him 20 points for the day.

"At half-time, we thought we had done well," Richards said. "I thought that if we could stop Wasps kicking to the corners and then using the driving maul, we would stop their only tactic, but we couldn't. We have a team of young players and they performed well. They will have learned from today."

Stransky, the Leicester captain, comes under severe pressure from Leota, who had an outstanding game for Wasps, and Volley

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Roser, Leota (2), Volley (2) Logan. **Conversions:** Logan (3) **Penalty goals:** Logan (3) **Leicester: Tries:** Murphy, Gustard **Conversions:** Stransky (2) **Penalty goal:** Stransky.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 3-0, 6-0, 11-0, 11-7, 11-10, 14-10, 21-10 (half-time), 26-10 26-17, 31-17, 38-17, 45-17.
WASPS: J Ufton S Roser, N Greenstock L Scrase, K Logan, A King, A Gomersall, O Malloy (rep A Black, 68min), T Leota (rep. D Macer, 74) I Dunston, M Weedon, S Shaw (rep A Reed 73) E Rollitt, P Volley, J Worsley
LEICESTER: G Murphy, L Lloyd J Overend, J Stuart, M Horak, J Stransky, J Hamilton, O Jeffery, D West, H Toews (rep P Freshwater 73) N Fletcher, O Addison (rep B Smith, 74) O Wingham L Moody, P Gustard
Referee B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Newcastle glad of insurance from Wilkinson

Newcastle Falcons 45
Northampton.....35

By Alasdair Reid

NEWCASTLE Falcons went back to their own home and back to their old habits at Kingston Park yesterday. However much their supporters relished the return of the side from the funereal Gateshead stadium, they could hardly have welcomed another display of those inattentive ways that sometimes threatened to disrupt their last, championship-winning, campaign.

With 17 minutes left, Newcastle had established a commanding 29-point lead at 45-16. Give credit to Northampton for closing that gap to ten in the closing stages, but Newcastle were unquestionably culpable. Their tackling became flimsy, their concentration appeared to disappear and, although Ashley Rowden, the referee, seemed to conspire in the process by virtually penalising them out of the game in the final quarter, they certainly deserved the punishment that Northampton inflicted.

It was an astonishing turnaround, but, then again, there had been a earlier foretaste of lax habits when, having swept into a 17-6 lead with only 13 minutes gone, they allowed Northampton to nibble into their advantage so that they led by 17-16 shortly after half an hour.

Jonny Wilkinson had kicked a penalty for Newcastle in the first minute and scored a try he converted himself in the seventh. The fly half also converted after Gary Armstrong had ploughed over from behind a lineout maul. Garry Pagel, the South African prop, then brought Northampton back into the game when he barged over after a lineout drive. Alastair Hepher's conversion, combined with three earlier penalties, narrowed the Newcastle lead to a single point, although Va'aiga Tuigamala stretched their half-time advantage to 24-10 with a try before the break.

There was some irony in that, for Tuigamala, an impressive and popular figure, found his ball retention skills had deserted him in the second quarter. On three occasions, he turned over possession under no pressure, although he recovered sufficiently to win the man-of-the-match award.

He was back to his best after the interval. Within two minutes, Tuigamala launched a powerful drive down the left. Richard Arnold accepted his pass and Peter Walton crashed through the remains of the defence to score in the corner.

Wilkinson put the memory of his woeful kicking display against Harlequins last weekend behind him with a flawless display. His two tries — the second arrived in the 63rd minute — six conversions and one penalty goal brought up a personal haul of 25 points. While Tuigamala was swigging his champagne, the fly half was probably considering the injustice of it all.

Richard Arnold, who had shredded his shorts shortly after half-time, promptly did something similar to the Northampton defence in scoring his side's fifth try in the 45th minute. When Wilkinson finished off a wonderful move with his second try, everything looked rosy for the home side — but they forgot to compete in the closing stages.

Northampton punished them first when Richard Metcalfe tumbled over the line in the 72nd minute. The former Newcastle player's feat provoked some ironic booing, but an anxious edge crept into the crowd reactions when Dominic Malone scored another try two minutes later. With Armstrong in the sin-bin for handling in a ruck, Pagel grabbed another try for Northampton in the final minute.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Wilkinson 2 (7, 63), Armstrong (13), Tuigamala (38), Walton (42), Arnold (45) **Conversions:** Wilkinson 6 **Penalty goal:** Wilkinson (1) **Northampton: Tries:** Pagel 2 (32, 80), Metcalfe (72), Malone (76) **Conversions:** Hepher 3 **Penalty goals:** Hepher 3 (3, 9, 27)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Newcastle Falcons first) 3-0, 3-3, 10-3, 10-6, 17-6, 17-9, 17-16, 24-16 (half-time), 31-16, 38-16, 45-16, 45-21, 45-28, 45-35
NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S Lepp; J Naylor (temp rep M Wood, 52-57min), M Shaw, R Andrew, V Tuigamala, J Wilkinson, G Armstrong (sin-bin, 71-80min); I Peel, R Horton, M Hunter, R Beattie, O Weir, S O'Neill, R Arnold, P Walton (rep A Chilton, 72)
NORTHAMPTON: A Blyth C Moir, O Danbacq, M Allen, J Steighthelme, A Hepher, D Malone, G Pagel, C Johnson, M Hynes (rep. M Volland, 37) R Metcalfe, J Chandler (rep J Philips, 71), D MacKinnon (rep S Foale, 59), P Lam, G Seely
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Bachop bedding in fast

London Scottish 17
London Irish.....23

By Michael Aylwin

THIS was the first league meeting between the Exiles in nearly three years, but there was little in the way of Celtic passion since there were so few Celts on display. This is not to say that the game lacked passion. There was plenty of bite in the tackle and energy going forward, but too often it fell apart through messy execution of the basics.

Both teams were sporting new recruits recently arrived from the southern hemisphere, which may have explained their lack of fluency. The duel at fly half between Jannie de Beer, Scottish's new Springbok, and Steve Bachop, Irish's new All Black, was won by Bachop, who had already had a game to bed in. De Beer's tactical kicking did little to ruffle the Irish, while Simon Forrest, the powerful New Zealand winger from Canterbury who was another Scottish player making his debut, was too often given the ball in isolation.

The Irish recruits had encouraging matches. Kevin Putt directed operations smoothly at scrum half and Jarrod Cunningham was a danger from full back. It was his break after a sweeping London Irish move that led to Bachop dummying his way over for the opening try, midway through the first half.

Niall Woods claimed Irish's second in the second half, after Bachop had released the impressive Nick Burrows through the Scottish midfield. That score put the game out of Scottish's reach, but they did stage a revival of sorts thereafter. Simon Holmes earned reward for his sterling work when he burrowed over after a lineout and then a five-metre scrum gave Guy Easterby the opportunity to glide over for a last-minute score.

Afterwards, John Steele and Dick Best, the two directors of rugby, vied with each other to claim the greater error rate for their respective teams. Steele described Scottish's performance as their worst of the season, while Best, although describe the Irish performance as the kmost error-strewn under his charge, was pleased with a marked improvement in discipline.

"It's a little easier to play rugby when you only give away seven penalties in a game," he said. "Having said that, you then have to catch and pass the ball."

SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: Holmes (66min) Easterby (79) **Conversions:** De Beer (2), **Penalty goal:** De Beer (1) **London Irish: Tries:** Bachop (23), Woods (61) **Conversions:** Woods, Cunningham, **Penalty goals:** Woods 2 (22, 47), Cunningham (71)
SCORING SEQUENCE: 3-0, 3-3, 3-10 (half-time), 3-13, 3-20, 10-20, 10-23, 17-23
LONDON SCOTTISH: R Smith, C Sharman, R Davies (rep J Bonney, 57 min), R Eriksson, S Forrest: J De Beer, G Easterby, M Macdonald, D Rudham, P Johnstone, E Jones, M Watson, S Fenn (rep G Manson-Bishop, 53), S Holmes, R Hunter
LONDON IRISH: J Cunningham; R Todd, N Burrows, B Venter, N Woods S Bachop, K Putt (rep: P Richards, 89), N Hatley, R Kirke, R Hardwick, (rep: K Pulman, 68), R Strudwick, M Bird (rep: R Gallacher, 68), J Boer, K Dawson, I Feaunati
Referee: C Rees (London)

Saracens punish blundering Bedford

Bedford 20
Saracens.....25

By Mark Baldwin

AFTER a day of reunions at Goldington Road, there was joy for depleted Saracens but more disappointment for Bedford, the strugglers of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

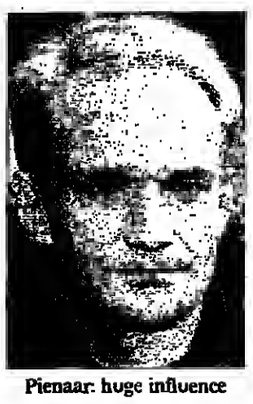
Paul Turner, the Saracens coach, admitted that he had "mixed feelings" after seeing the club that he left earlier this season throw away a good chance of victory with a series of errors. And, at the end of an entertaining affair, Rudi Straeuli strode across the turf to grasp the hand of François Pienaar, his fellow World Cup-winner with South Africa.

Turner said: "With Leicester and Northampton being beaten today, these two points put us back in among the top teams. Of course, my job now is to help Saracens, but because of my time here and the send-off the club gave me, I still feel dreadfully disappointed for Bedford."

Straeuli, who celebrated the birth of his second child last week, wanted to play in this game, but Bedford's misinterpretation of the regulations governing overseas players on international weekends forced him to withdraw on Friday night. How Bedford could have done with the steadying influence of the former Springbok No 8 and how Saracens depended on the controlling hand of Pienaar in their back row.

Pienaar, the former South Africa captain, even went to scrum half for one first-half scrummage near the Bedford line, but although that particular initiative did not work, he was influential all around the field from the open-side flank. Pienaar provided perhaps the pivotal moment of the game when, in the 56th minute, his thrust inside Brad Free and flip-up pass created an important score for Wayne de Jogne, the replacement prop.

After some stuttering performances in recent weeks, Saracen needed a victory to breathe new life into their season and they were helped by a dreadful Bedford error 15 minutes from time that led to Richard Wallace's try. Bedford had defended their line stoutly, but Tony Yapp made a mess of a drop-out and the resultant scrummage, which took Saracens back to where the kick had been taken, gave the visitors the platform to send in Wallace in the corner and go two scores clear.



Pienaar: huge influence

Geoff Cooke, the Bedford director of rugby, said: "It's all so depressingly familiar. We made too many basic errors. It's a lack of discipline, or a lack of professionalism, if you like. We keep making these errors and it's going on too long. We can't complain about defeat, although I'm sure Saracens will feel relieved because they didn't play well either."

It had all started so well for Bedford, in front of their best crowd of the season — 5,175 — on their first venture into Sunday league rugby. Saracens were missing five first-choice forwards, but Bedford, themselves without three key players, led at half-time thanks to a brilliant individual try from Rory Underwood, who followed up an interception, just inside his own half with a chip ahead and two kick-ons to the tryline. Sam Howard, the Bedford full back, missed two kickable penalties in the second half, either try of Troy Coker's try for Saracens, and Junior Paramore went under the posts for the home side ten minutes from time, but by then it was too late.

Cooke added: "The buzz phrase in our dressing-room this season has been 'if only', but that's the most useless phrase in the English language. We are disappointed that some great efforts have brought such little reward."

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Underwood (30 min), Paramore (71) **Conversions:** Howard 2 **Penalty goals:** Howard 2 (3, 54) **Saracens: Tries:** Coker (50), de Jogne (56), Wallace (66) **Conversions:** Johnson 2, **Penalty goals:** Johnson 3 (22, 32)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first) 3-0, 3-3, 10-3, 10-6 (half-time) 10-13, 13-13, 13-20, 13-25, 20-25
BEDFORD: S Howard, B Whetstone, J Ewens (rep D Harris, 41min) A Murdoch, R Underwood, T Yapp, C Harrison, C Boyd J Richards, V Hanland, D Zaltzman, R Winters, J Cockle, J Paramore, P Elphick (sin-bin 64-74)
SARACENS: G Johnson, B Taylor, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace, A Penaud (rep M Singer, 77), B Free, B Reedy, G Chuter, A Olver (rep W de Jogne, 48), K Chesney (rep. T Rouges, 74), C Yandell, T Coker (sin-bin 64-74), P Ogilvie, F Pienaar
Referee: R Goodliffe (Yorkshire)

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
FA Carling Premiership
Nottingham Forest v Derby (8.0)
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Gillingham v Enfield, Peterborough v Cardiff
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Fulham (at Boreham Wood F C , 3 0), Chelsea v Southampton (7 0); Reading v Portsmouth
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester v Manchester Utd (7 0) **First division:** Wolverhampton v Burnley (7 0)
LEAGUE CUP: Group Four: Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield (2 0)
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ruislip Manor v Hillingdon Borough
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Midland Challenge Cup: Second round: Atherstone v Hinckley Utd. Ilkeston v Rushden and Diamonds.
SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: First round replay: Colchester Utd Yth v Leyton Orient Yth (7 0)
FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round: Leatherhead v Crawley (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: London Hilton: Amateur international match: England v United States
RUGBY UNION: Club match: Bridgend v Mid-district XV (7 15)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group three: N Ireland v Moldova (at Coleraine Showground, 7 30)
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Czech Rep (at Ipswich Town, 7 45)
«el1NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Rochdale v Scarborough (7 45)
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Doncaster v Barrow (7 45), Yeovil v Kettering (7 45).
FA CUP: First round: Darlington v Burnley (at Middlesbrough, 7 45)

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Cambridge University v Fiji XV (3 0) Edinburgh Reivers v South Africa XV (at Easter Rd, Edinburgh, 7 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup: Quarter-final: Chester Jets v Newcastle Eagles (7 30)
TENNIS: British National championships (in Telford).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Czech Republic (at Wembley Stadium 8.0)
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group three: Northern Ireland v Moldova (at Windsor Park, Belfast, 8.0) **Qualifying group eight:** Yugoslavia v Ireland (at Red Star Stadium, Belgrade, 7 0).
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group eight: Yugoslavia v Ireland (at Sarod Stadium, Smederevo, 12.30) **Qualifying group nine:** Scotland v Belgium (at St Mirren Park, Paisley).

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP: European qualifying zone: Pool one: Georgia v Romania (at Lansdowne Road, 7 0). **Pool two:** Holland v Italy (at Huddersfield, 7 30)
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales A v Argentina A (at Pontypridd, 7 15).
TOUR MATCH: Glasgow Caledonians v New Zealand Maoris (at McDiarmid Pk, Perth, 7.0).
CLUB MATCHES: Oxford University v Major Stanleys XV (3 0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Ireland (at Patrick Thistle, 7 30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup: Quarter-finals: Greater London Leopards v Birmingham Bullets (7.30): Sheffield Sharks v Derby Storm (at Ponds Forge ISC, 7 45), Manchester Giants v Thames Valley Tigers (7 30)

THURSDAY

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Bristol Select XV v Fiji XV (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: London Knights v Newcastle Riverkings (7 30)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Mansfield v Barnet (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Newcastle Eagles v Edinburgh Rocks (7 30).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Liverpool, Blackburn v Southampton Leeds v Charlton, Leicester v Chelsea Middlesbrough v Coventry Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester Utd Tottenham v Nottingham Forest: Wimbledon v Arsenal.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bristol City v Stockport Bury v Grimsby, Huddersfield v Bradford Ipswich v Bolton, Oxford Utd v Port Vale, Portsmouth v West Bromwich, Queens Park Rangers v Sheffield Utd, Sunderland v Barnsley Swindon v Crystal Palace Tranmere v Norwich Watford v Crewe. **Second division:** Blackpool v Preston (12 0). Bournemouth v Burnley, Fulham v Chesterfield Lincoln v Luton, Macclesfield v Walsall, Manchester City v Gillingham; Millwall v Bristol Rovers, Northampton v Reading: Notts County v Colchester Oldham v Wrexham, Stoke v York, Wigan v Wycombe **Third division:** Brighton v Halifax, Cambridge U td v Darlington, Carlisle v Rotherham Chester v Rochdale, Exeter v Shrewsbury Leyton Orient v Brentford, Scarborough v Hartlepool Scunthorpe v Hull, Southend v Plymouth, Torquay v Peterborough
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v St Johnstone, Celtic v Rangers Dundee Utd v Dundee, Hearts v Dunfermline Kilmarnock v Motherwell
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Ayr, Greenock Morton v Falkirk Hamilton v Hibernian Raith v Stranraer St Mirren v Clydebank. **Second division:** Arbroath v Partick, Inverness CT v Clyde, Livingston v Alloa, Queen Of South v East Fife, Stirling v Forfar **Third division:** Brechin v Ross County, Cowdenbeath v Albion Dumbarton v Montrose East Stirling v Queen's Park, Stenhousemuir v Berwick.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated
WORLD CUP: European qualifying zone: Pool one: Ireland v Romania (at Lansdowne Road)
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Scotland v South Africa (at Murrayfield) Wales v Argentina (at Llanelli, 5 30)
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Saracens, Harlequins v Bath, London Irish v Bedford Northampton v Richmond (2 15) **Second division:** Blackheath v Waterloo; London Welsh v Exeter (2.0): Orrell v Worcester, Rotherham v Wakefield (2.15). Rugby v Fylde
JEWSON LEAGUE: First division: Camberley v Rosslyn Park (2 30), Henley v Reading (2.30). Lydney v Newbury, Manchester v Liverpool St Helens (2 15). Morley v Otley, Nottingham v Birmingham/Solihull, Wharfedale v Harrogate (2 15) **Second division north:** Hinckley v Walsall (2 30) Kendal v Sheffield (2 30), Lichfield v Winnington Park (2.30): New Brighton v Nuneaton (2 30), Preston Grasshoppers v Stourbridge (2 15), Sandal v Sedgley Park (2 15) Whitchurch v Aspatria (2.30) **Second division south:** Bridgwater v Barking, Clifton v Esher (2.30) Havant v Weston-super-Mare (2 30), Met Police v North Walsham Norwich v Cheltenham (2 30), Redruth v Bracknell (2 30), Taberd v Plymouth (2.15)
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Aberdare v Tredegar (2 30) Bonymaen v Rumney (2 30), Cross Keys v South Wales Police (2.30): Maesteg v Pontypool (2.30), Merthyr v Blackwood (2.30), Newbridge v UWIC (2 30) Tondu v Llandovery (2 30) Treorchy v Dunvant (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Thames Valley Tigers (7 0) **Uni-ball Trophy:** Derby Storm v Milton Keynes Lions (7 30), Leicester Riders v Chester Jets (7 30), London Towers v Newcastle Eagles (7 30), Worthing Bears v Manchester Giants (8 0).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v Manchester Storm (7 0) London Knights v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7 0)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Derby v West Ham (4 0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v Birmingham (1 0) **Third division:** Swansea v Cardiff (12 0)
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee Utd v Dundee (6 05)

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP: European qualifying zone: Pool two: England v Italy (at Huddersfield, 3 0)
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Wasps v Sale (3 0) West Hartlepool v London Scottish (3 0). **Second division:** Bristol v Moseley (2 30), Leeds v Coventry (1.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Greater London Leopards (5 30) **Uni-ball Trophy:** Edinburgh Rocks v London Towers, (5 0), Milton Keynes Lions v Sheffield Sharks (4 0)
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Manchester Storm (6 0) Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6 0). Newcastle Riverkings v Sheffield Steelers (6 30).

HOCKEY: MATHEWS RESCUES CANTERBURY AS SOUTHGATE CLOSE IN

Reading find the finishing touch

By Sydney Friskin

READING'S progress into the fourth round of the EHA Men's Cup at the expense of Havant yesterday was swift and sure. They scored within 19sec through Ashdown and ended with a 5-2 victory.

Havant, the home side, recovered their composure, but lacked firepower. Wyatt increased the Reading lead from a short corner and Loose added the third goal from a free hit. In the dying seconds of the first half, Havant had two shots at goal from short corners but could not penetrate the Reading defence.

The fervour that Havant showed at the start of the second half was rewarded with a goal by Forster, but Wyatt scored two more goals for Reading from a penalty stroke and a short corner to achieve his hat-trick.

Havant gained further encouragement when Cover scored with a clever deflection in the sixtieth minute. Had they capitalised on two late short corners, they might have added some respectability to their score.

Cannock, the holders, went through with a 6-2 victory over Beeston, with Takher scoring twice. Further goals were added by Lee, Crutchley, Humphrey and Mayer. In the remaining all-National League premier division clash, Old Loughtonians defeated Guildford 5-3.

Canterbury maintained the leadership in the premier division on Saturday, but they had to struggle for a 3-2 victory at Hounslow. Having lost a 2-0 lead, Canterbury relied on Mathews to convert the decisive penalty stroke four minutes before the end for his second goal. Humphries had earlier scored the Canterbury opener before Hounslow replied through Whalley and Jamshid.

Cannock, the champions, were held to a 2-2 draw at home by Reading, for whom Andrew Todd levelled in the 56th minute after Cannock had taken a 2-1 lead. Pearn scored the earlier Reading goal with Lee responding twice for Cannock. Southgate, having beaten Bournville 3-2, were a point behind Canterbury with a game in hand.

Slough hat-tricks hit Havant hard

By Cathy Harris

MANDY Nicholson and Jane Smith, the England strikers, both scored hat-tricks for Slough as the women's National League premier division champions emphasised the huge gulf in standards with a thumping 12-0 victory over non-league Havant in the third round of the EHA Cup yesterday.

All the Premiership teams booked their places in the next round, while Sunderland, from the first division, and Poynton, of the second division, were the only National League clubs knocked out, going down to Dulwich and Tulse Hill respectively.

The two northern clubs are both struggling at the bottom of their leagues and Sunderland's miseries were compounded when Louise Keith snatched a last-minute winner for Dulwich. Tulse Hill also relied on a last-gasp effort, from Zoe Barford, whose goal five minutes from time was the only one of the game.

At the start of the league season, most teams were adamant that all that counted was securing a place in the top four to qualify for the play-offs. The general consensus was that Slough, Ipswich and Clifton were certainties with the fourth place up for grabs. However, Clifton's spot is hardly guaranteed, after their defeat at Leicester, and Olton, who twice came from behind to beat Doncaster, have moved into third position. Ipswich are clear at the top, ahead of the champions, Slough.

It needed a superb strike from the edge of the circle three minutes from time by Lucy Youngs to see Ipswich to a narrow 2-1 win against Hightown. Tina Cullen put the Merseyside team ahead after 20 minutes, but Michelle Pleasance brought the scores level level four minutes before the break. Jo Thompson then brought off a string of fine saves as Ipswich were put under pressure.

Sarah Kelleher, Slough's Ireland international, scored twice in their 5-2 win over Sutton Coldfield and Helen Richardson, the Leicester teenager, was twice on target from penalty corners against Clifton.

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Stirring Wembley encounter provides telling contrast to serious mismatch at Huddersfield

Garvey, one of the South Africa props, finds himself badly outnumbered by Wyatt, left, Craig Quinnell and Anthony during one particularly heated passage of play

Wales lament slip from path of glory

Wales.....20
South Africa.....28

By Gerald Davies

LIFTING their game to hitherto unexpected heights of commitment and competitiveness and maintaining their momentum to the very last, Wales took South Africa close to their first defeat in 15 international matches at Wembley on Saturday. It was an extraordinary performance by a team that, when they last met the world champions in the summer, had returned humiliated from the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, where a mere four points had denied the Springboks a century.

Such a heavy defeat was an embarrassment for Welsh rugby, but, clearly, it provided the impetus for the rejuvenated mood of a team that was made manifest by the forthright stance they took from the very beginning here. There was nothing shy or hesitant, nor were Wales awkward or made to look as if they were out of their league, attempting ambitiously, as they have done in the past, to play a style that was beyond their reach. This was almost a winning performance. The players will have to live with that "almost".

That they drove the might of the Springboks so close, relinquishing their grip only after the 80 minutes were up and with injury time in its first minute, will not assuage their sharp and, as they will find in years to come, eternal frustration. They knew, once they reached the safe haven of their dressing-room, where the silence would have been broken only by gasps of blighted hopes and wretched disappointment, that this was a game they could and should have won.

"We were in a position to beat the world champions," Robert Howley, the Wales captain, said forlornly afterwards, aware as well as anybody that a famous victory had slipped through his team's grasp.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, would have felt the disappointment just as keenly. For all Wales's courage and the manner in which they managed to contain the Springboks, they were ultimately were found lacking in discipline and composure.

"We need to mature," Henry said. "We need to grow up. The difficulty is that we have not enjoyed the practice of winning enough. South Africa have the patience and they know how to win. They are more efficient, more potent as international players."

Even so, the first half-hour would have caused unlimited consternation for Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, who was as generous in his praise for Wales on Saturday as he was in his condemnation of them in the summer. Nothing appeared to go right for his team. Not only were they forced to play the game on their heels, they were prone to making uncharacteristic errors. Each player in turn, even the usually immaculate Teichmann and Venter, seemed to be afflicted with careless hands.

In contrast, Taylor, as he did for the first try, and Howarth, on several exciting counter-attacking moments, were quickly and confidently into their stride. With both Quinnells, particularly the younger, Craig, in rumbustious form, Wales took the game firmly into the heart of the Springboks' not entirely tight defence and rarely came off second-best. It was thoroughly uplifting.

But it was not enough. Worse, at the core of the South Africa victory was a highly dubious piece of refereeing. Whatever strenuous claims will be made to the contrary, Stuart Dickinson's decision to award a penalty try in the 32nd minute of the first half was disturbingly questionable.

A scrummage was called under the Wales posts. South Africa exerted the pressure to attempt to win a pushover try. The scrum weaved and started to lose its shape. Humphreys, the Wales hooker, for whatever reason, was forced to stand upright in the scrum. Technically, this is a punishable offence, but, since there is so much uncertainty in the deep recesses of the scrum — what is the intention? who is actually at fault? is it done on purpose? — referees are cautious.

As Mallett said afterwards, the procedure usually adopted in the southern hemisphere, as well as in Europe, is for the referee to stop the scrum, talk to the offending player, give a warning and to ask for the scrum to be reformed. Only after this stage, with a repeated infringement, would a penalty be awarded. Frustratingly, this is exactly the procedure he followed when, six minutes into injury time, he gave Smith his opportunity to kick the final penalty goal.

This blatant inconsistency is unacceptable from a professionally employed referee who presented South Africa with a gift of seven points at a time when they were 14 adrift. On such swings and roundabouts of interpretation can a game be decided.

Wales had deserved that hard-earned lead, accumulated over 25 minutes through a superb try by Thomas and three penalty goals by Jenkins, but it was swiftly erased between the 32nd and 34th minutes, Van der Westhuizen sprinting clear for the second try.

On other occasions, Wales's spirit might have been destroyed by such a quick and unkindly turn of events, but not on Saturday. Their resolve was deep-rooted and impressive in a wonderful game of rugby.

Scott Quinnell's late yellow card, with the score equal at 20 points apiece, was the signal for South Africa's final thrust, Van der Westhuizen paving the way for Venter's decisive score and Smith's last penalty goal. Henry will looking for a repeat performance against Argentina next Saturday — but, of course, with a much more favourable score.

DETAILS FROM WEMBLEY

WALES: Try: Thomas (8min). Penalty goals: Jenkins 5 (14, 20, 24, 41, 59) South Africa: Tries: Penalty try (32), Van der Westhuizen (34), Venter (81). Conversions: Smith 2. Penalty goals: Smith 3 (48, 76, 86).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wales first): 5-0, 8-0, 11-0, 14-0, 14-7, 14-14 (half-time), 17-14, 17-17, 20-17, 20-20, 20-25, 20-28

WALES: S Howarth (Sale): G Thomas (Cardiff), M Taylor (Swansea), S Gibbs (Swansea), O Jones (Pontypridd); H Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain), A Lewis (Cardiff), J Humphreys (Cardiff), C Anthony (Swansea, rep: B Evans, Swansea, 67min), C Charvis (Swansea), C Quinnell (Richmond), C Wyatt (Llanelli), M Williams (Pontypridd), S Quinnell (Llanelli).

SOUTH AFRICA: P Montgomery (Western Province); S Terblanche (Boland), A Snyman (Northern Transvaal), F Smith (Northern Transvaal), P Rossouw (Western Province); H Honiball (Natal), J van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), R Kempson (Natal), J Dalton (Gauteng Lions), A Garvey (Natal; rep: A-H le Roux, Natal, 46), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), M Andrews (Natal; rep: R Skinstad, Western Province, 46), J Erasmus (Free State), A Venter (Free State), G Teichmann (Natal, captain)

Referee: S Dickinson (Australia)

Dutch pride undented by England's record haul

England 110
The Netherlands.....0

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

EVEN in a professional world, there remains room for true emotion: there were tears in the eyes of The Netherlands players as they left the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, not because they had conceded a cricket score in a rugby match but because they had stood toe-to-toe with England, who gave the game to the world, and had not disgraced themselves.

Setting aside, for a moment, the question of World Cup qualification or any analysis of tactics, the confrontation of professional with amateur allowed the game to show, in flashback, so many of the qualities that have given the sport its traditional appeal.

The Netherlands, hugely enthusiastic with their flock of students, from their policeman at prop to their radiologist at full back, threw themselves into the tackle with a discipline and courage that deserved the admiration of a larger crowd than the nine thousand or so who braved a spiteful day to watch England's pride at work.

They conceded 16 tries, three more than England's highest previous tally — and that was back in 1881, against another emerging country, Wales — yet left their opponents with a genuine respect. "I've played against sides who have conceded 40 or 50 points and their heads have gone down," Jeremy Guscott, the scorer of four tries, said. "These boys never did that."

Had the Dutch been able to win any kind of decent possession, their midfield of Rogier van der Walle and Garron Everts might have offered more than sustained defence. Van der Walle came nearest to a Dutch try in the second half, Everts to scoring points with the sole penalty attempt of the match, but their half backs were under the kind of pressure that they have never previously known.

"We did our best," Mats Marcker, their long-serving scrum half — 14 years and 73 caps — who will retire when their World Cup commitments finally end, said. "If you want to say goodbye to your career, what else can you do after playing against England? It felt good to play in."

England, too, deserve credit for their disciplined, sensible display. There were no histrionics from a side aware of its overwhelming superiority. They did what a professional side should do, playing direct and simple, though far from faultless, rugby. The error count that Clive Woodward, the coach, wanted to reduce was larger than it should have been.

Woodward spoke with Geoff Old, his opposite number, before the game to express his concerns about the possible disparity at set scrums; in the event, his experienced tight forwards displayed enviable control in a match handled with considerable skill by Roger Duhau, the French referee.

As a preparation for the greater demands that Italy next Sunday, never mind Australia and South Africa in successive weeks, will pose, it was less than beneficial; as a method of bringing different worlds together, however briefly, it served its purpose.

Woodward hopes that it will not recur. He is one of those who perceives a World Cup played on three distinct levels, with the strongest teams seeded direct to the finals, the weaker playing bowl or shield tournaments concurrently and doing away with the expensive travels that the Dutch will undertake in the repechages under the present structure.

The match on Saturday, sponsored by Lloyds TSB, rendered null and void previous scoring records. Before then, England had not scored more than 60 points in an international, a mark they passed with Paul Grayson's eighth conversion. The Northampton fly half's precise kicking, many from near the touchline, earned him 30 points and a place alongside Rob Andrew (against Canada in 1994) in the record books.

Neil Back matched Guscott try for try and would have joined Rory Underwood (1989) and "Dan" Lambert (1907) on five had he not generously given Dan Luger a debut try with no defender in sight. "Three were team tries," Back said, "and I was just the benefactor of good play from the others. As long as the team wins and I'm in it, that's all that counts."

While none of the England party will attach more importance than it merits to the scoreline, it was nonetheless a significant occasion for those hitherto on the fringe. Luger, the Harlequins wing, should have made more of his chances while Martin Corry did everything that he was chosen for at No 8. "There was a massive buzz to pulling on the England shirt again," Corry said. "Getting 'up' for the game was no problem."

Results and tables.....Page 43

Woodward will not determine until Thursday the starting XV to play Italy, who meet the Dutch on Wednesday evening, and he will be wise not to look further than that game. As it was, there were surely some sharp words at the interval after a 16-minute spell when England, having scored six tries, meandered. After the break, they cleared the rucks and mauls with greater efficiency and, with better handling, might have scored another four tries.

Italy will be far more physical, more streetwise and more talented. They will ask questions of the England defence that the Dutch could not.

"We are trying to take all we can from rubbing shoulders with the stronger rugby-playing nations," Old said. "We are far beyond where we expected to be, so this was not part of our development, but the players will be more mature for the experience — and we're not in *The Guinness Book of Records*."

SCORERS: England: Tries: Back 4 (5, 23, 38, 52), Guscott 4 (18, 63, 67, 71), penalty try (11), Greenwood (16), Cockerill (40), Corry (42), Dawson (44), Luger (54), Healey (59), Beal (80) Conversions: Grayson 15
SCORING SEQUENCE: 7-0, 14-0, 21-0, 28-0, 35-0, 42-0, 47-0 (half-time), 54-0, 61-0, 68-0, 75-0, 82-0, 89-0, 96-0, 103-0, 110-0.
ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath; rep: N O Beal, Northampton, 51min), O D Luger (Harlequins), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), J C Guscott (Bath), A S Healey (Leicester); P J Grayson (Northampton), M J B Dawson (Northampton), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), O J Garforth (Leicester, rep: G C Rowntree, Leicester, 51), M O Johnson (Leicester, captain), G S Archer (Newcastle, rep: T A K Rodber, Northampton/Army, 51), B B Clarke (Richmond; rep: R A Hill, Saracens, 51), N A Back (Leicester), M E Corry (Leicester)
THE NETHERLANDS: A Webber (London New Zealand), O Winkels (Haagsche), R van der Walle (DIOK), G Everts (Reading), G Viguurs (The Dukes), B Vervoort (Oesterwijk, rep. S Ramaker, Rotterdam, 61), M Marcker (Castricum, captain, rep R Lips, Haagsche, 76); J van der Esch (West Hartlepool, rep H Brat, Haagsche, 46), A Seybel (Haagsche), R Philippo (Amsterdam), P Faas (Oesterwijk), R Donkers (Sarnhall), R van der Ven (Peyrehorade), N Holten (Waikato), C Eijsera (Wakefield)
Referee: R Duhau (France)

Guscott scores one of his four and England's 16 tries in the 110-0 defeat of The Netherlands at Huddersfield

Scotland fail to resolve problems behind scrum

Scotland XV.....8
New Zealand Maoris.....24

By Alasdair Reid

SCOTLAND supporters have watched more calamitous performances than this in pre-Christmas internationals, but it was small consolation that this latest humbling by a side from the southern hemisphere was not strewn with errors and gaffes. Instead, they endured a depressingly drab match played in sheets of rain that swept across Murrayfield as remorselessly as the New Zealand Maoris ground out their win.

More worrying still was the fact that only 19,200 of the stadium's 67,500 seats were occupied on Saturday. Such a low turnout served only to oil the cogs of Scottish rugby's rumour mill, with speculation that Duncan Paterson, the Scottish Rugby Union's executive chairman, will step down in the near future. The reports were, however, denied by Bill Watson, the chief executive.

Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, may try to be indifferent to such affairs, but he could hardly deny that his side were outplayed by the Maoris. The forwards competed adequately, but there was a lack of conviction behind the scrum, as there had been on the summer tour to Australia.

"I thought the forwards played reasonably well, our possession from the lineout was good and the scrums were stable," Telfer said. "We just lacked the incisiveness and precision behind. That was a problem for us in Australia as well and is something we will have to work on."

The Maoris, 9-3 ahead at half-time, ended the contest with two tries midway through the second half. The first, by Glen Marsh, resulted from a punishing charge towards the line by Norm Berryman, their powerful wing, on the hour and then, nine minutes later, Adrian Cashmore, the Maoris full back, who had already kicked four penalties, added a superb individual effort with a scything 30-yard run.

The solitary Scotland try came two minutes from the end, when Alan Tait, the replacement centre, sent a soaring pass to Derrick Lee, the full back, who touched down in the corner.

SCORERS: Scotland XV: Try: Lee (78min) Penalty: Lee (1) New Zealand Maoris: Tries: Marsh (60), Cashmore (69) Conversion: Cashmore Penalty goals: Cashmore 4 (6, 32, 35, 51).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Scotland XV first): 3-0, 3-3, 3-6, 3-9 (half-time), 3-12, 3-19, 3-24, 8-24
SCOTLAND XV: D Lee (London Scottish); A Stanger (Edinburgh Reivers), J Mayer (Edinburgh Reivers), R Shepherd (Glasgow Caledonians, rep A Tait, Edinburgh Rovers, 74), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), G Townsend (Brive; rep: D Hodge, Edinburgh Reivers, 80), B Redpath (Edinburgh Rovers, captain), T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), P Burnell (London Scottish; rep: O Hilton, Bath, 67), S Murray (Bedford), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians; rep: G Weir, Newcastle, 56), R Wainwright (Glasgow Caledonians, rep. M Leslie, Edinburgh Reivers, 80), E Peters (Bath), A Pountney (Northampton)
NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: A Cashmore (Auckland); B Reihana (Waikato), C Ralph (Auckland), O Gibson (Canterbury; rep: R MacDonald, Southland, 74, rep: G Osborne, North Harbour, 79), N Berryman (Northland), T Brown (Otago), R Duggan (Waikato); L Lidgard (Counties-Manukau; rep. G Feek, Taranaki, 58), S McFarland (North Harbour; rep. J Akurangi, Counties-Manukau, 58), K Meerues (Otago), N Maxwell (Canterbury; rep: H Makin, Counties-Manukau, 79), J Cos (Counties-Manukau; rep R Cribb, North Harbour, 79), T Revell (North Harbour), O Muir (Waikato, captain), G Marsh (Counties-Manukau).
Referee: S Lander (England)

France falter before meeting Australia

FRANCE, warming up for their match against Australia next week, failed to impress in Nantes on Saturday as they beat Argentina 34-14.

France, who twice beat the Pumas earlier this year, scored five tries to one, but yesterday, without the injured Thomas Castaignède, at fly half, and Christian Califano, the prop, they failed to shine behind the scrum, dropping passes, and struggled throughout to dominate the combative Argentina pack.

Australia, who take on France in Paris next week, are unlikely to have been overawed by what they saw. Pierre Villepreux, the joint-coach of France, remained optimistic about the Australian confrontation, however.

"It will be an entirely different game, as the Australians like to play the ball around, whereas the Argentinians prefer to keep the ball tight," Villepreux said.

One of the plus points to come out of the game was the performance of Stéphane Glas, the centre. "Two tries is great in the first international of the season for me, but we'll have to play a lot better next week and not drop the ball so often, though defensively we held up well," Glas said.

Ireland hint at limitations as Georgia are overrun

Ireland 70
Georgia.....0

From Mark Souster in Dublin

AFTER another embarrassing international mismatch, one that, in its own way, exposed Ireland's limitations as much as it did those of Georgia, is it not time for Rugby World Cup (RWC) to consider a tiered tournament that takes account of the inexperience and vulnerability of emerging countries and groups them accordingly?

This hugely one-sided European zone pool one qualifying match produced a points record for Ireland, eclipsing a 60-0 defeat of Romania in 1986, but it has to be asked what benefit can be derived from such cruel exposure.

Then again, Georgia did not help themselves by resting 11 players ahead of their meeting with Romania on Wednesday, so, in that sense, it is difficult to gauge the real standard of their rugby. That game will almost certainly decide which of the two countries qualifies automatically for the finals next year and which has to endure the lottery of the repechage. The decision by Claude Saurel, the coach, while understandable in the circumstances, made a mockery of the organisers' intentions. Is there a case for considering sanctions for playing a deliberately understrength side?

These are all questions for RWC and the International Rugby Board, but a World Cup that included a plate, shield and/or bowl, as well as a full tournament, would make more sense in the interim. It would allow minnows to find their level and improve through meaningful competition.

Georgia played their hearts out, tackling and defending stoutly for 50 minutes before running out of steam, but they offered nothing more. Not once did they threaten the Ireland line.

That made it all the more baffling that Ireland laboured so long to impose their authority. They virtually monopolised territory and possession, but demonstrated a worrying inability to move the ball wide quickly. It did not help that Eric Elwood, at fly half, stood too flat, denying himself and those outside him space.

Ireland scored four tries in the first half and six in the second. Two went to Girvan Dempsey, the replacement full back, who appears to be a player of rich potential, as does Ciaran Scally, the scrum half, who joined Dempsey on the scoresheet on his debut after replacing Conor McGuinness.

Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, for whom this was a first victory at the sixth attempt, accepted that there were problems to be addressed. "We weren't happy with the way we started," Gatland said. "We were a bit apprehensive."

Ross Nesdale, the Newcastle hooker, aggravated a hamstring injury early in the game. A decision will be taken today on his fitness, but, if he withdraws, the way would be clear for Keith Wood to return to the fold after his contract dispute with the Irish Rugby Football Union.

Elwood: failed to create space for Ireland backs

SCORERS: Ireland: Tries: Dempsey 2 (61min, 75), Wallace (5), Johns (18), Maggs (36), O'Shea (38), Costello (47), Dugnan (51), Bell (58), Scally (69) Conversions: Elwood 10
SCORING SEQUENCE: 7-0, 14-0, 21-0, 28-0 (half-time), 35-0, 42-0, 49-0, 56-0, 63-0, 70-0.
IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish, rep G Dempsey, Terenure College, 54), J Bishop (London Irish), P Dulgnan (Gloucester), J Bell (Dungannon), K Maggs (Bath), E Elwood (Galwegians), C McGuinness (St Mary's College; rep: C Scally, UCD, 54), P Clohessy (Young Munster; rep: J Fitzpatrick, Dungannon, 63), R Nesdale (Newcastle, rep: A Clarke, Dungannon, 28), P Wallace (Saracens), P Johns (Saracens, captain), M O'Kelly (London Irish; rep. J Davidson, Castres, 60), E Miller (Terenure College), A Ward (Ballynahinch), V Costello (St Mary's College; rep: O O'Culmeaggin, Sale, 60).
GEORGIA: V Atsechidze (Gurian), G Baglaenschvili (Gurian), E Dzagnidze (Dalvebi, rep: P Jincheladze, Gurian, 40), V Kebadze (Mauguio), A Kavtaradzvili (Padova); B Tsiladze (Kochebi), C Djanidze (Gurian); I Tchikava (Kochebi), L Javelidze (Gurian; rep: L Tsabadze, Narbonne, 70), G Chveidze (Sioa), I Zedgenidze (Mauguio), V Nadiradze (La Teste, captain), A Kobaladze (Koreb), G Labadze (Penza, rep: B Khamasuridze, AIA, 40), K Kobakhidze (Kochebi, rep: Z Mchedlichvili, Milau, 40)
Referee: R Davies (Wales)

Hiltons prepare for the last waltz

The Hiltons: world-beaters

Ruth Gledhill on on the future for British dance sport as the nation's leading couple consider retirement

Marcus and Karen Hilton, who have set two world dance sport records within a month by winning their ninth world title and their eighth International, have announced that they are to take a "sabbatical" from competitive action.

The Hiltons, from Rochdale, who are building a reputation equal to that of their mentors, Bill and Bobbie Irvine, of Streatham, intend to stay off the floor "for the next few months". It is understood that they will be concentrating on coaching and demonstrating, especially in Japan, where they are at present.

Their departure — announced on the eve of the Closed British national championships in Blackpool this week — gives the world No 2 couple, Luca and Lorraine Baricchi, from London, who won the Global Masters in Southampton last month, a clear chance to take the Open UK title in Bournemouth in January.

Speculation is growing that the Hiltons intend to return to the floor for the Open British championships next May and possibly retire permanently after that. This would avoid the controversy that accompanied the return to the floor of Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, from Scotland, who won the world professional Latin championship in South Africa for a fourteenth time after "retiring" two years earlier.

Even if the Hiltons and Burns and Fairweather stay around for another two years or more, their retirement must come soon as both couples are in or approaching their 40s. There is widespread dismay at the small number of talented British couples trying to fill their shoes, as the growing dominance of Italians and Eastern Europeans continues to threaten the traditional eminence of Great Britain in the sport.

The Hiltons will go down in history as being among the greatest dance sport competitors and the Baricchis, also dancing for England, are expected to assume their crown. Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, with Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton, who finished fourth and fifth respectively at the International, are also holding the fort for Britain.

In the amateur ranks, though, the future looks grim. Alan and Donna Shingler, winners of the Open British last year, were defeated at the recent world amateur championships in Japan by William Pino and Alessandra Bucciarelli, of Italy. Although the Shinglers won the Amateur International last month, in which Pino did not dance, three of the other five finalists were Italian. The second-placed man, Roberto Villa, was Italian, although he dances for England with Michelle Barry, of London.

The problems afflicting British dance sport seem likely to peak just as the sport gains a place on the Olympic programme, which could be early in the next millennium. The Swiss-based International Dance Sport Federation, the world amateur body, has already been granted full recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

Britain has dominated the sport since dancers deserted the old-time quadrilles and two-steps of the ballrooms of stately homes earlier this century and moved into sports halls and arenas with the modern waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep, now known as the "standard" dances.

Even in the Latin field, featuring the jive, cha-cha-cha, rumba and samba, Britain has resumed dominance in the professional world with the return of Burns and Fairweather. It is in the amateur arena, the traditional training ground, that reports of difficulties are gaining ground.

Bryan Allen, a leading coach and *Dance News* columnist, said that future Olympic gold medals are in jeopardy. He said that the sport can only be saved if amateurs are granted a licence to coach other competitors, as they do in Italy, Germany and Eastern Europe.

According to a confidential document leaked to *The Times*, a subcommittee of the British Dance Council, set up to examine the future of the sport, has recommended for the first time "that amateurs will be allowed to have training to become amateur competitive coaches". The proposal is expected to meet stiff opposition when it is debated next week.

Allen said: "Opponents are failing to see the advantages of using our young dancers to showcase the sport to young people, who are not terribly impressed by older teachers and who think anyone in their late 20s or older is getting on a bit."

In a separate paper, discussed this week by the teachers' committee of the British Dance Council, the umbrella body for the professional side of the sport, Lyndon Wainwright, a leading teacher, gave warning of a "dramatic drop" in the influx of new pupils to dance schools. He also said that, sometimes, teachers can themselves be to blame for the decline: "Inefficient teaching can create a climate which makes the public distrustful of all schools."

No proper research has been done into the number of dance sport competitors in Britain and there is no record of the number of schools, teachers and coaches. Different reports have put the number of people who go dancing regularly at anything from 500,000 to ten times that number. However, nearly all teachers and coaches are in agreement that the sport, on the amateur side, is in serious decline in Britain. It is a decline that needs to be halted if challenges from Japan, Russia, Lithuania, Germany and Italy, where the sport has a more competitive image, are to be resisted.

Room at the top: the Hiltons have set new standards for dance sport, but who will be able to follow in their dazzling footsteps after they retire? Photograph: Brenton Edwards

BADMINTON

South set to give England direction

By Richard Eaton

ASGER MADSEN'S two-year spell in charge of England finished with a chastening 5-1 defeat to a superbly talented young China squad in the six-match Quality Hotels series, but also with an optimistic prediction that, after a long wait, he has found a top-class men's singles player.

The England head coach departs to take up a similar post next month in Germany, but he believes that he leaves behind a better structure, improving attitudes and, in Andrew South, 18, someone special. "It is not often you get star material like him," Madsen said after the 5-0 defeat at Stevenage on Saturday that again underlined the gulf between England and the world's strongest badminton nation. "Andrew will do very well if he continues working as he is. He has a long reach and a very good temperament."

The England debut of South at Weston-super-Mare on Friday was ideal, a three-game tussle with Zhang Yang, the world junior champion, which confirmed the impression that the tall youngster from Nottingham is also likely to acquire lofty stature within the game. South battled for more than an hour in a wonderful match in which he was close to beating an opponent who ought to be in the world's top ten within a couple of years and it suggested that a successor to Darren Hall, who has been the England No 1 for the best part of a decade, is at last within sight.

England would probably have won at least one other match in the series had they not been determined to experiment. There were two other newcomers — Neil Waterman and Robert Knock — and several other players with limited international experience as the campaign intensifies to create a new, younger and far more professional regime.

This will take another two years to achieve, according to Madsen, who has played a significant role in trying to revolutionise attitudes. The task will be continued on a six-month interim basis by Elliott Stuart, the former All England mixed doubles champion.

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CHANGING TIMES

Sisters sticking together in quest for national service

England's hockey prospects are being illuminated by some Northern light, **Cathy Harris** says

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Lorna Sissons does not mind who she says that she wants to play hockey for England more than anything else in the world. Her heroine is Jane Sixsmith, the England and Great Britain striker, and although she would love to meet her, Sissons admits that she is not sure what she would say.

For the time being, Sissons, who turned 12 in June, is doing all her talking on the pitch. Selected for the North Under-16 squad, the defender was the youngest player at a recent regional tournament at Bedford. The experience could have proved to be daunting for a player so young, but she knew she could rely on the support of her sister, Rachel, 14, who is the team's sweeper.

"I'll be relaxed because Rachel will look after me," Sissons said before the tournament. Her prediction that the North would triumph turned out to be wrong, but what she was most looking forward to was going away and being involved in the competition.

The sisters started playing at Kirkham Grammar Junior School, with Lorna captaining the side to the national mini-hockey title two years ago. Both won academic scholarships to Kirkham Grammar School and have continued to make an impact at county and regional level. A fellow pupil, Hannah Spacey, a 13-year-old goalkeeper, was also in the North team.

"They've come in to it all very early," Adrian Metcalf, the North coach, said, "but we are not going to let them get away and, if they're going to represent England, this is all part of their development. Playing at this level will help them gain consistency in their game. All three are seen as having England potential."

Metcalf, however, cautioned against Lorna Sissons doing too much too soon. "She's definitely a player for the future, very quiet and unassuming with a good hit and an excellent understanding of the game. Rachel is a little more developed and exposure at this level will help her learn from her mistakes. The qualities that we're looking for are speed, athleticism, an ability to hit the ball and a brain."

The sisters have taken already the first steps towards international recognition, with the family celebrating Rachel's recent elevation to the Lancashire Under-18 county squad and Lorna's selection for the county Under-16 side. At school, Linda Baxter, their coach, said that they add an extra dimension to the team. "They have so much flair and individual skill that they're always dangerous on the ball," she said.

While Lorna Sissons says that Sixsmith is the best player she has seen, Rachel is more reserved and self-critical. She has set her sights on following her parents — Mark, a pathologist, and Paula, also a doctor — into medicine. The younger sister takes a little longer to think about the future, before saying that although "pathology is gruesome but very interesting", she would like to be a doctor as well as an England international.

One quality that both sisters possess is a keen competitive streak. Enduring foul weather and freezing temperatures on the sidelines in Bedford, their parents agreed that any game played in the house was a nightmare because Rachel and Lorna hate losing. "But whatever they choose in life we'll support them," Mark Sissons said. "It's up to them — we'll just be happy to provide the taxi service."

After losing 1-0 to Queenswood, the eventual winners, in the semi-finals of the national Under-15 Cup last season, Kirkham Grammar's campaign has started with a flourish. A convincing 8-0 victory over St Bede's College earned them a third-round tie at Hulme Grammar. The Sissons siblings will play their part, but Baxter can proudly field a complete squad of county representatives intent on capturing the trophy for the first time.

Sisters in lore: Lorna, left, and Rachel Sissons are establishing glowing reputations

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Shining knight leads presidential race

As British athletics seeks to build on its progress from a bankrupt sport into one with winners on the track, a record television deal and a potential host of the 2003 world championships, tomorrow will be a landmark. The result of the club elections to name the first president of the new national governing body, Athletics UK, will be announced. Among the five candidates are the contrasting figures of Sir Eddie Kulukundis and Steve Ovett. DAVID POWELL looks at the man with the millions and the athlete in a million.

Those who know Sir Eddie Kulukundis will tell you that the size of his wallet is exceeded only by the size of his heart. The size of his frame is a talking point, too. Some estimates have put him above 21st. Either way, he is up there with the shot putters.

If size — bank balance, generosity, waistline — has been a theme of Sir Eddie's life, then never more so than this week. Tomorrow, we shall know whether the size of the vote for him will determine whether the sport's biggest fan — measured by enthusiasm rather than girth — is to become its most powerful politician.

It must seem incomprehensible to the theatre luvvies how a man married to a famous actress, who is on the executive committee of the Royal Shakespeare Company and who has produced more than 80 plays should be worrying about the sort of detail that Sir Eddie was troubling himself with last week. Athletes, coaches and media, though, would say: "Typical Eddie."

As Sir Eddie prepared to take his seat on Friday as the only non-statistician on a panel deciding the world merit rankings in more than 40 disciplines for *Athletics International*, he said: "Though I feel I know all the women javelin throwers, I seek advice on women's shot and discus because I am not really sure who should be ranked sixth, seventh or eighth. I am not sure who's who once you get past the first three or four." Few athletes, coaches or journalists could give you a No 1 for every event without reference.

If it is not extraordinary enough that he should give up an entire day to agonise over such minutiae, he even pays for the rankings to happen. Indeed, Sir Eddie has been meeting other people's costs for much of his 66 years, funding promising playwrights and athletes, even coaches. He inherited a large fortune and turned it into a small one — "fair comment," he said — and was described by the *Evening Standard* as "London's most generous spender".

As a Lloyd's Name, Sir Eddie lost more than £1 million; as the backer of *Athletics Today*, he lost another £2 million; as a theatre impresario, he lost £2 million. Yet he continues to fund athletes and coaches as a private benefactor, an indulgence that has cost him another £2 million.

He spent £30,000 on putting on his own decathlon and heptathlon meeting in Arles last summer, covering the costs of 60 athletes and coaches. This was Sir Eddie in his element, thumbing through the points tables, gathering results with schoolboy excitement.

For all his extravagance, this man, who inherited his wealth from the family shipping business, is still afloat. Talking of boats, he once hired one just so that he and a few coaches could follow the Commonwealth Games women's marathon as it went along a seafront where pedestrians could not go. On another occasion, while in New York, he could not bear to miss Ovett v Cram at Crystal Palace. "I rang my wife and she put the phone next to the TV and I got the commentary." Sir Eddie said, proud at his ingenuity.

Wife is Susan Hampshire, whom he married in 1981 after a three-month whirlwind romance. She has been to every Olympics since then, but never attends domestic meetings. "I am always surrounded by coaches and a lot of them live off me," Sir Eddie said. "This upsets her, so she prefers not to be there, but, to be fair, we had 12 coaches sleeping in the house I rented in Atlanta and she cooked for them."

If elected as president, much, if not all, of Sir Eddie's backing of individual athletes will have to end, in the interests of impartiality. Furthermore, he has promised to stop recruiting for his club, Belgrave Harriers. In Great Britain, you can find him at the smallest meetings. He is the sport's biggest fan — but, then, he can afford to be.

The men who would be president: Sir Eddie Kulukundis, pictured with his wife, Susan Hampshire, and Steve Ovett are contrasting running mates

A rebel urges support for the cause

Imagine Liam Gallagher in the chair at EMI, Gazza running the Football Association or Martin Clunes behaving well as Director-General of the BBC. Get the picture? Steve Ovett wants to head the British athletics establishment: he hasn't started waving to the crowd, but he is in the home straight and thinks he has a chance.

Ovett was the controversial 1980 Olympic 800 metres champion and multi-world record-holder who shunned the press, showed a disdain for authority and irritated opponents by waving to spectators as he kicked for the finish. He broke down in tears on television over an incident that led to a AAA inquiry and, even in retirement, he has been nobody's angel.

"I am a controversial figure and many people may think too controversial [for the job of president], but you need somebody injected now and again with that attitude," Ovett, 43, said. "The sport needs a good kick up the backside. I am unorthodox, but I can get things done."

Do not dare suggest, though, that Ovett is the Screaming Lord Sutch of this election. "I am not that," he said, switching from his jocular personality to serious politician. "I am a responsible person. I have four children, I have done well in business and I know the sport probably better than anybody."

Ovett, who, for eight years, barely spoke to the press, has much to say for himself these days. There are two main areas, he said, that need patching up urgently. One — coaching — drew an angry and public response from Malcolm Arnold, then the Britain head coach, after comments that Ovett, a television commentator, had made.

"My comments upset him because he was director of coaching and, if somebody criticises coaching, you are the one who has to stand up, beat your chest and say everything is OK. But, after coming off the Olympics with no gold medals, you cannot sit back and say everything is bunky-dory. I do not think that the coaching structure now, with all the money that has been ploughed in over the past ten or 15 years, is any better than 20 years ago.

"There are only two things that matter: talent and coaching. People say the talent is there. I have always slightly doubted it, but, if it is there, we have got to do something about the coaching to develop it. On the talent side, we have got to go out and look for it. We have been lax in the past ten years."

It is nine years since Ovett gave a tearful performance when interviewed after the AAA 1,500 metres, though his arguments were not easily understandable then. It emerged that Ovett had suspected Andy Norman, Britain's promotions officer and his former close friend, of trying to shorten his career.

An inquiry into Ovett's allegation that Norman had phoned him with a £20,000 offer to run against Sebastian Coe in the strictly amateur championships concluded that a call was made but that it was unclear whether Norman made it. When Ovett discovered Coe was not being paid, he suspected that the news that only he was would be leaked, damaging his reputation.

Ovett's criticism, together with similar remarks by Coe, of British middle-distance running brought a stinging response from John Mayock, the European indoor 3,000 metres champion. "We are fed up with their negative comments," Mayock said. If unprepared to shut up, Ovett is at least prepared to put up. The years of waving to his supporters have gone. The question now is: are there enough of them left to wave him into office?

Hemery hurdles into the voting

THE other leading contender for the presidency of Athletics UK, an unpaid role, is David Hemery, the 1968 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion. Hemery, 54, is seeking his first official post in the sport, saying: "We want champion athletes, but we want young people who have fun and grow doing it."

Unlike Sir Eddie and Ovett, Hemery has been on the periphery of the sport in recent years. Ironically, it was Hemery who was the starting point for Sir Eddie's involvement in athletics. They met at the 1972 Olympic Games, when the businessman was struck by Hemery's modesty and asked if there was anything that he could do to help British athletes. Soon, he was putting money into the careers of Ovett, Alan Pascoe and Brendan Foster. Countless others have benefited since, from Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Denise Lewis, to walkers and juniors.

"David would be a fine president," Sir Eddie said, before adding: "My only concern is that he will not have enough time because he has youngsters and has to earn the bread. He and I are both on Athletics Youth Performance and we can never meet with David because he is always too busy."

With neither David Moorcroft nor Sir Christopher Chataway, the main forces behind the sport's rehabilitation, running for president, the remaining contenders are Tom McNab, who made his reputation as a coach and author, and Dr Mike Turner, a former Britain Olympic team manager. Moorcroft is to apply to become chief executive.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Many top bridge players relish seeing partner's failings exposed in the media, but not the World Junior Champion, Morton Lund Madsen of Denmark. Madsen formed a new partnership with Freddi Brondum for this year's European Junior Championships in Vienna, in which Denmark eventually finished second. Writing for the bulletin, Madsen praised his partner's resourcefulness in adversity in this potentially unlucky hand from the Danish Junior Pairs.

Dealer South **Game All** **IMPs**

North: ♠ A 6 ♡ A 8 4 ♢ A Q J 4 ♣ A Q 10

West: ♠ 10 8 7 ♡ 10 9 6 5 2 ♢ 6 2 ♣ J 8 5 3

East: ♠ K 8 4 2 ♡ Q J 7 3 ♢ 10 9 7 5 3 ♣ –

South: ♠ Q J 5 3 ♡ K ♢ K 8 ♣ K 9 7 6 4 2

Contract: Seven No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of hearts.

With their 30 pages on bidding notes, pruned down from an original 60, it was no surprise that the new partnership reached the excellent grand slam. It looks like there are thirteen easy tricks on any distribution: declarer cashes the ace of clubs and can arrange to finesse against J-x-x-x on either side. Unfortunately the heart lead took away one of the necessary entries to hand. What could Brondum do about this? Technically speaking, nothing, but let Madsen take up the story:

"Fred is a very good card player, but not psychic. So he took the king of hearts and played a club to the ace. After getting the bad news Freddi instantly called for a small diamond from the dummy. As it was early Sunday morning East played low and Fred played the eight from hand! When that held everything was in order and he could return to hand after playing a club to the ten and cashing the queen to score up his +2220."

The Times Book of Bridge 2, featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR, tel: 0171 388 2404, price £7.99, post free for *Times* readers.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

THELYTOKY
a. Virgin birth
b. Digital communication
c. A Malayan table game

SEISES
a. Sickness
b. Singers
c. Cereal

GAD
a. An iron object
b. A false baseball shot
c. A Mexican canoe

SIDE-STRIPPER
a. Paint remover
b. A dancer
c. A distiller

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Number two

Second prize in the powerful tournament at Tilburg was won by Peter Leko, the Hungarian grandmaster. Some time ago, Leko became the world's youngest grandmaster, but his early promise was stifled by excessive caution and inability to win against the world's best players.

Leko now appears to have emerged from this impasse and today's game, for example, sees him adroitly beating off a promising looking attack.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Peter Leko
Tilburg, Holland 1998

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Bf5
5	Ng3	Bg6
6	h4	h6
7	Nf3	Nf6
8	Ne5	Bh7
9	Bd3	Bxd3
10	Qxd3	e6
11	Bf4	Qa5+
12	c3	Qa6
13	Qf3	Nbd7
14	Nxd7	Kxd7
15	Be5	Be7
16	b3	Rhd8
17	c4	Qa5+
18	Ke2	Ke8
19	Rhe1	Kf8
20	Kf1	Rd7
21	a4	Rad8
22	Rad1	Kg8
23	Rd3	Ne8
24	Nh5	Bd6
25	Bxg7	Nxg7
26	c5	Nxh5
27	Qxh5	Qa6
28	Ree3	Bf4
29	Qg4+	Kf8
30	Qxf4	Rxd4
31	Qxh6+	Ke8
32	Kg1	Rxd3
33	Rxe6+	Kd7
34	Rf6	Kc8
35	Rxf7	Rd1+
36	Kh2	Qe2
37	Qf4	R1d7
38	Rxd7	Rxd7
39	Qf8+	Kc7
40	Qf4+	Kc8
41	Qf8+	Rd8
42	Qf5+	Kb8
43	Qf4+	Ka8
44	g4	Qe7
45	g5	Rf8
46	Qe3	Qxe3
47	fxe3	Kb8
48	g6	Kc7

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times* and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from readers will be published here or in the Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess from Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

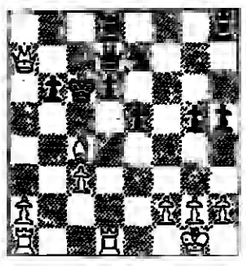
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play.

This position is from the game Vasquez—Warlick, Elista Olympiad, 1998.

How did White capitalise on the exposed position of the black king?



Solution on page 50

*Please note: Interest rate comparison (as at September 1998) between Citibank Current Account and Barclays Bank Account, Midland Bank Account, First Direct Cheque Account, and NatWest Current Plus Account: the rate is variable, calculated daily, and is the gross p.a. rate of interest paid on balances of £2,000 or more. Interest is applied and compounded monthly (Barclays quarterly). Overdraft subject to status with written credit quotation available on request. Free Internet banking does not include the cost of modem calls. Account opened with Citibank International plc., subject to eligibility. Registered office: 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. ® Registered trademark of Citibank NA.

RACING: JOCKEY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF SERIOUS FALL WITH VICTORY IN VALUABLE HURDLE

Osborne celebrates with Grey Shot

By Chris McGrath

WHEN Graham Bradley walked into the paddock before the first race at Cheltenham yesterday, it was hard to imagine a more eloquent tribute to the iron resilience of National Hunt jockeys. Within two hours, however, the art of survival — which Bradley had confirmed as their metier — was rendered into a masterpiece by Jamie Osborne.

The previous afternoon, it had been forgivable to wonder if even Bradley's undimmed zest, in the evening of his career, could endure so terrifying a trampling as he had taken after Senor El Betrutti fell at the eighth in the Murphy's Gold Cup.

Ashen-faced, his head in a brace, he had gone to hospital in sufficient pain for doctors to assume he had smashed his pelvis. Yet here he was, cantering down to the start with Door To Door.

They produced a vigorous rally up the hill, moreover, to take second behind Arctic Camper. But the Turf, so fertile in tales to break or warm the heart, has surpassed itself with the traumas and bitter-sweet triumph of Osborne's last 12 months. His success on Grey Shot, in the Murphy's Draughtflow Hurdle, rounded them off with a sense of symmetry that will serve him well in his other calling, as a talented amateur painter.

For it was on precisely the same card last year that Osborne shattered his left wrist in a novice chase fall; his hand was such a limp, nerveless bag that many doubted that he would ever ride again. At one stage, after the most luridly hurtful salt was rubbed into those wounds, he even allowed himself to share their doubts. (He was arrested, but never charged, by police investigating allegations of doping and race-fixing.)

By the time he was finally fit for that emotional return at Ascot last month, Osborne had been told that the police's interest was also exhausted. Even less sensitive and intelligent men than he, however, would recognise that life is unlikely to be quite the same again; after all, the blackest hour of his year was the death of his dear friend, John Durkan.

But yesterday's race represented a formal token that he has, in professional terms, resumed business as usual, business unfinished, moreover, since he won the Murphy's last year, on the same Senor El Betrutti who gave Bradley a ghastly hint of his colleague's sufferings since.

"This day last year was the start of a long, long road," Osborne said after Grey Shot had staked his claim to return here in March for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle. "I can't say how wonderful it feels to be here after everything that has happened. For a couple of weeks, I did question whether the condition that had set into my hand was worth fighting with the ferocity it required."

Grey Shot, a class act on the Flat, was having only his fifth start over timber in a handicap that remained frantically competitive despite a four-horse pile-up at the first flight. Prominent as usual, he jumped better than he had at Wincanton the previous week and had all bar Tyrolean Dream labouring as they swept downhill.

Giving 19lb, it was Osborne who was working harder than Charlie Swan as the pair matched strides into the straight. Grey Shot, however, found more as they sought a final surge approaching the last, galloping two lengths clear up the hill.

Grey Shot is now down to 12-1 third favourite for the Champion with Ladbrokes, behind Istabraq at 7-4 and Blowing Wind on 10-1, though William Hill offers 16-1. "He has to be a serious contender," Osborne said. "He was giving a lot of weight to a very nice horse, who was going better coming down the hill. But we outstayed him."

Ian Balding, the grey's trainer, added: "He is a good, brave, tough horse and while I don't think he could beat Istabraq, or several others, in very soft ground, he would be there with a live chance if we had fast ground in the spring. I'd like to think he could have one more run before Christmas so long as the ground does not turn heavy."

Lady Rebecca, left, disputes the lead on her way to winning the Stakis Casinos Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: **RAGAMUFF** (1.50 Leicester)
Next best: **Simons Castle** (2.20 Leicester)

Top Cees moved to Balding

TOP CEES, unwitting star of the libel trial that gripped racing earlier this year, has joined Ian Balding after the retirement of Lynda Ramsden (Chris McGrath writes). The eight-year-old's principal target is to be the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Balding's son, Andrew, is returning to Kingsclere as assistant trainer after serving a similar role under Mrs Ramsden and her husband, Jack. "I rode the horse out there and know him well," he said. "I've huge admiration for Jack, but there is one thing over which we can't agree — Jack thinks that Top Cees doesn't like Ascot, and that he won't stay even if he did, whereas I think the Queen Alexandra is his ideal race. We'll have to wait and see who's right."

Threatening to exceed even that horse's career quota of column inches is Tony McCoy. The champion jockey confirmed his marvellous talent on Cyfor Malta in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday, but his use of the whip is dividing some increasingly heated opinions.

McCoy, who wore a bleak expression as he returned to the winner's enclosure on Cyfor Malta, showed his distress over continuing problems with the stewards by throwing his whip to the crowd. He can expect a lengthy ban when he goes before the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee today, after his latest breach of the rules at Fontwell last week.

As for Cyfor Malta, he had the race won at the top of the hill — notwithstanding the late rally of Simply Dashing — and was yesterday cut to 10-1 from 12-1 for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup in March.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

1.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Arctic Camper** (N Williamson, 6-5 fav); 2, Door To Door (7-2); 3, Tara-Brogan (11-1). 14 ran. NR: Luggsy. 2½l, ½l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £3.60. CSF: £4.26.

1.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Lady Rebecca** (S Kelly, 5-2 fav); 2, Dromhale Lady (25-1); 3, Melody Maid (11-1). 13 ran. NR: Cherrymore, Country Beau, Mimosa. 7l, 1½l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £6.30, £3.10. DF: £141.90. CSF: £64.99. Tricast: £524.89.

2.15 (2m ch) 1, **Mister Morose** (C Llewellyn, 5-2 fav); 2, Dines (4-1); 3, Desert Mountain (11-4). 5 ran. 2½l, 3l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £7.50. CSF: £11.06.

2.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Grey Shot** (J Osborne, 11-4 fav); 2, Tyrolean Dream (16-1); 3, Fatehalkhair (33-1); 4, Decoupage (7-1). 16 ran. 2l, 3l. I Balding. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £2.50, £12.70, £2.00. DF: £37.50. Trifecta: £3,566.80. CSF: £44.79. Tricast: £1,159.07.

3.25 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Capenwray** (A P McCoy, 5-4 fav); 2, Tight Fist (33-1); 3, The Outback Way (12-1). 13 ran. NR: Linden's Lotto. 2½l, 2½l. J King. Tote: £2.30; £1.70, £8.90, £3.10. DF: £122.60. CSF: £50.65. Tricast: £363.11.

4.00 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **Scarlet Emperor** (D Leahy, 20-1); 2, Ackzo (20-1); 3, Russell Road (16-1). Benamora (6th) 5-2 fav. 18 ran. NR: Carrington House, Catfish Keith. 6l, 1¾l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £42.90; £6.70, £5.80, £5.90. DF: £477.70. CSF: £353.41.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £7,464.64 carried forward to Leicester today).
Placepot: £620.20. Quadpot: £182.30.

Ayr

Going: good to soft

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Eastern Project** (B Harding, 9-1); 2, Crazy Horse (4-5 fav); 3, Scotmail Lad (6-1). 14 ran. 2½l, 3l. M Hammond. Tote: £13.30; £2.10, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £9.20. CSF: £18.49.

1.00 (2m ch) 1, **Sweep Gently** (S Durack, 9-2); 2, Inn At The Top (16-1); 3, Cavalier d'Or (4-1). Foundry Lane 4-5 fav. 8 ran. 3½l, ¾l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £6.10; £1.60, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £24.30. CSF: £46.72.

1.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Cope With Reality** (R McGrath, 11-4); 2, Quick March (5-2 fav); 3, Sir Bob (14-1). 15 ran. Nk, 21l. J O'Neill. Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.60, £4.00. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.89.

2.05 (2m ch) 1, **Tom Brodie** (C McCormack, 5-1); 2, Panah (16-1); 3, Montrave (20-1). Welsh March (fell) 7-4 fav. 7 ran. 1½l, 15l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £3.90; £2.90, £3.30. DF: £28.90. CSF: £54.34.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Cottstown Boy** (Mr M Bradburne, 12-1); 2, Globe Runner (5-2); 3, Apollo's Daughter (20-1). Kilbue King 9-4 fav. 7 ran. ½l, 20l. Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £16.80; £4.20, £1.80. DF: £27.20. CSF: £38.06.

3.15 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, **Scotia Nostra** (R McGrath, 11-2); 2, Phar Echo (3-1); 3, Fils de Cresson (10-1). Out By Night (fell) 11-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Silver Pearl. 3½l, 11l. J O'Neill. Tote: £6.10; £2.00, £1.90, £3.10. DF: £12.00. CSF: £20.68. Tricast: £147.46.

3.50 (2m flat) 1, **Lord of The Sky** (R Supple, 7-1); 2, Lingdale Lad (5-1); 3, Stop The Gossip (14-1). Parlance Bay (4th) 4-1 fav. 15 ran. 1¼l, 5l. L Lungo. Tote: £5.50; £2.10, £2.90, £5.30. DF: £8.70. CSF: £39.08.

Placepot: £180.10. Quadpot: £60.60.

Towcester

Going: chase - good to soft, soft in places; hurdles - soft.

12.15 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Come On Ellish** (B Gratten, 7-2); 2, Obliterate (8-4 fav); 3, Another Chancer (9-2). 10 ran. 2l, 5l. John R Upson. Tote: £5.20; £1.40, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £8.10. CSF: £11.41.

12.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Woodlands Beau** (A Thornton, 5-2); 2, Jocks Cross (9-4 fav); 3, Copper Coil (5-1). 9 ran. ½l, 26l. R Alner. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £1.20, £2.70. DF: £4.90. CSF: £8.77.

1.20 (3m hdle) 1, **Stewarts Pride** (C Maude, 11-8); 2, Young Thruster (5-4 fav); 3, Knightsbridge Dot (7-2). 7 ran. 6l, dist. S Brookshaw. Tote: £2.40; £1.90, £1.10. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.39.

1.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Clever Remark** (C Maude, 3-1); 2, Young Kenny (7-4 fav); 3, Freddie Muck (3-1). 6 ran. 6l, 5l. J Old. Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £1.70. DF: £4.40. CSF: £8.57.

2.25 (2m hdle) 1, **Coulthard** (W Marston, 11-8 fav); 2, Monica's Choice (7-2); 3, Another Night (4-1). 6 ran. 6l, 7l. Mrs P Sly. Tote: £2.20; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £3.20. CSF: £6.38.

3.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Mr Conductor** (R Widger, 5-2 co-fav); 2, John Drumm (5-2 co-fav); 3, Tim Soldier (16-1). River Leven (4th) 5-2 co-fav. 5 ran. 17l, 1½l. R Alner. Tote: £2.90; £1.50, £1.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £8.64.

3.35 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Browjoshy** (A Thornton, 2-1); 2, Rockcliffe Gossip (4-7 fav); 3, Prussian Steel (7-1). 9 ran. 13l, 8l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.65.

Placepot: £8.30. Quadpot: £4.50.

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs since won	Level stakes
M Pipe	66	37	36	2	-50.39
P Nicholls	35	25	5	3	+26.42
P Hobbs	33	27	15	3	+18.38
Mrs M Reveley	30	29	26	2	-43.11
P Bowen	24	17	15	39	-15.98
N Twiston-Davies	19	21	11	1	-6.10
R Alner	18	14	10	1	+4.60
Mrs S Smith	18	11	17	1	+15.25

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	74	40	35	1	-61.98
R Johnson	48	44	54	13	-67.71
R Dunwoody	43	18	24	5	+21.62
C Llewellyn	35	30	27	3	-33.35
T J Murphy	33	16	12	14	+132.81
N Williamson	30	14	20	3	+17.89
A Dobbin	36	26	18	7	-24.32
W Marston	26	30	25	0	-3.71

DETAILS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

1.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Katarino** (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4 fav); 2, Simply Gifted (5-2); 3, Charlie's Gold (16-1). 9 ran. NR: Hare Park Polly. 11l, 14l. N Henderson. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.70, £2.90. DF: £4.20. CSF: £7.61.

1.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Stormyfairweather** (M A Fitzgerald, 5-4 fav); 2, Skycab (3-11); 3, Zaggy Lane (25-1). 5 ran. 5l, 15l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.50. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.95.

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Hoh Invader** (R Dunwoody, 10-1); 2, Ashley Muck (13-2); 3, Rathbawn Prince (16-1). Dance So Suite 7-4 fav. 12 ran. 4l, ¾l. C Mann. Tote: £10.30; £2.30, £1.70, £3.60. DF: £23.60. CSF: £83.30.

2.55 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Cyfor Malta** (A P McCoy, 3-1 fav); 2, Simply Dashing (8-1); 3, Dr Leunt (7-1). 12 ran. NR: Hoh Warrior, Potter's Bay. 1l, 7l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £2.10, £2.90, £2.40. DF: £28.00. Trifecta: £358.70. CSF: £23.96. Tricast: £138.24.

3.30 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Tennessee Twist** (N Williamson, 7-1); 2, Strong Chairman (7-4 fav); 3, Yahmi (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Cavalero, Kendal Cavalier. 2½l, 1l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £7.10; £2.00, £1.50. DF: £6.80. CSF: £17.88.

4.05 (3m 2f hdle) 1, **Jet Tabs** (R Dunwoody, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Runaway Pete (6-1); 3, Amble Speedy (7-2). Borazon 3-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Snow Board. 10l, 21l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £3.50; £1.60, £1.90, £1.60. DF: £11.60. CSF: £24.87. Tricast: £79.62.

Jackpot: £32,941.40.
Placepot: £99.60. Quadpot: £47.30.

Ayr

Going: good to soft

1.15 1, **Course Doctor** (4-6 fav); 2, Pin Mony (9-2). 5 ran. NR: Legal Right.

1.45 1, **Seven Towers** (7-2); 2, Etrespray (4-1); 3, Sparky Gayle (7-4 fav). 5 ran.

2.15 1, **Saintes** (8-1); 2, Captain Brady (33-1); 3, Polo Venture (5-1). Lambrini Lad 11-4 fav. 12 ran.

2.45 1, **My Saltarello** (5-1); 2, Thorntoun House (20-1); 3, Mr Cavallo (10-1). To-Day To-Day 7-4 fav. 6 ran.

3.15 1, **Chipped Out** (5-2 fav); 2, River Unshion (5-1); 3, Burnt Imp (100-30). 8 ran.

3.45 1, **The Next Waltz** (5-1); 2, Vilprano (9-1); 3, Valiant Dash (9-1). Sleepy River (I) 13-8 fav. 8 ran.

Market Rasen

Going: soft (good to soft in back straight)

12.55 1, **Tashreef** (4-11); 2, Mongiano (6-1); 3, Dulas Bay (12-1). Cashaplenty 5-2 fav. 10 ran.

1.30 1, **Sad Mad Bad** (4-7 fav); 2, El Cordobes (11-2); 3, Over The Comb (16-1). 4 ran. NR: Good Vibes.

2.05 1, **Premium Quest** (13-8 fav); 2, Tender Touch (25-1); 3, Najjar (5-2). 11 ran.

2.40 1, **Prelude To Fame** (7-1); 2, Imad (8-1); 3, Dominos Ring (14-1). Gay Galant 3-1 fav. 9 ran.

3.20 1, **Lay It Off** (7-1); 2, Cullane Lake (20-1); 3, Lovable Outlaw (14-1). Karenastino 11-4 fav. 11 ran.

3.50 1, **Ahraydoubleyou** (11-2); 2, Smart Boy (7-1); 3, Dee Fee Tee Cee (2-1 fav). 11 ran. NR: General Haven, Protocol.

Windsor

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.30 1, **Mersey Beat** (8-11 fav); 2, Edan Heights (7-1); 3, Nemisto (12-1). 13 ran. NR: Premier League, Valander.

1.00 1, **Mothers Help** (16-1); 2, Wave Rock (11-8 fav); 3, Master Caster (7-2). 18 ran. NR: Still Waters.

1.35 1, **Dancing Laird** (13-2); 2, Brown Lad (11-2); 3, Chicago City (5-2 fav). 14 ran.

2.10 1, **Seymourswift** (7-2 jt-fav); 2, High Altitude (11-1); 3, Top Note (4-1). Colonel Blazer 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Millcroft Riviera.

2.40 1, **Lotschberg Express** (6-1); 2, Catherine's Way (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Spick And Span (7-2 jt-fav). 13 ran.

3.10 1, **Millersford** (9-4 fav); 2, Ivory Coaster (6-1); 3, Transcendental (50-1). 10 ran. NR: Cross Rhodes.

3.40 1, **Dragon King** (5-1); 2, Bigwig (14-1); 3, Shoofk (13-2). Abajany 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Holy Wanderer, Wayfarers Way.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

7.00 1, **Tropical Beach** (7-1); 2, Arc (15-2); 3, Up In Flames (9-1). Far Cry 5-4 fav. 13 ran.

7.30 1, **Absalom's Lad** (11-2); 2, The Imposter (20-1); 3, Dekelsmary (12-1). Kareeliee Kabe 2-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Cue Man.

8.00 1, **Just Name It** (11-10 fav); 2, Tiger Shark (11-4); 3, Sovereign Abbey (4-11). 12 ran.

8.30 1, **Pride Of Brixton** (8-1); 2, Soaked (7-2 fav); 3, Rita's Rock Ape (7-1). 13 ran.

9.00 1, **Dispol Clan** (10-3); 2, Legal Venture (9-4 fav); 3, Lady Carbron (9-2). 8 ran.

9.30 1, **Sioux** (7-1); 2, Noukari (11-2 jt-fav); 3, Desert Spa (7-1). Cry For Freedom 11-2 jt-fav. 12 ran.

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LEICESTER

THUNDERER

12.50 Octavia Hill
1.20 Rubamma
1.50 Debt Of Honour
2.20 Simons Castle
2.50 Charming Girl
3.20 Native Speaker
3.50 **MOLSUM** (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 **SIBOR STAR.**

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.50 DESBOROUGH MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,882: 2m 4f 110yd) (15 runners)

101 504-01 DARK ROMANCE 11 (S) (A Goldson) Miss Z Davison 9-11-12 C Maude 78
102 1F1F-5 CARLINGFORD GALE 44 (D,S) (Mr & Mrs O Gamble) 1 George 7-11-10 M A Fitzgerald —
103 20242- MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 194 (G) (T French & R Jones) S Gollings 7-11-6 S Durack 91
104 F000U2 MOSCOW MAID 29 (B) (P Cummins) P Cummins (Ire) 5-11-3 M P Madden (7) —
105 U5/5P/ PARIS FASHION 639 (D,F,G,S) (P Kelsall) C A Smith 7-10-9 T Jenks —
106 6/F3/0 POPLIN 11 (Mrs M Mann) Mrs D Haine 7-10-8 B Fenton 78
107 00615F OCTAVIA HILL 13 (B,F) (M Ridley & Partners) J Bradley 5-10-7 R Johnson 86
108 244-33 DUTCH DYANE 25F (L Fuller) G Enright 5-10-4 A Maguire [illegible]
109 PP452- STRAY HARMONY 185 (G) (Winwood Connell) R Smith 8-10-4 J Goldstein (5) 60
110 230233 CRUZ SANTA 23 (D Rimmer & Mr S L Paisley) M Chapman 5-10-3 W Worthington 91
111 2/FP3- BRANCEPETH BELLE 207 (N Mason) N Mason 8-10-1 K Johnson 80
112 30-F50 CRAZY CRUSADER 11 (B) (A Frost) D Gandolfo 6-10-0 B Wynne 74
113 00500- PRECIOUS ISLAND 245 (J Ellis) J Pickering 5-10-0 Gary Lyons 33
114 50603- CALLIOPE 196 (R Gibbons) A Carroll 6-10-0 A Scholes (7) 61
115 PP-0 CURRACLOE ROSE 13 (Not Over Big Partnership) C Morlock 5-10-0 J R Kavanagh 49

Long handicap: Crazy Crusader 9-12, Precious Island 9-11, Calliope 9-7, Curracloe Rose 9-2.

BETTING: 5-1 Octavia Hill, 11-2 Memsahib Ofesteem, 6-1 Dark Romance, 7-1 Moscow Maid, Stray Harmony, 8-1 Dutch Dyane, 10-1 Poplin, Cruz Santa, 12-1 others

1997: NATIVE SHORE 5-12-0 Mr K R O'Ryan (5-2) C Mann 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Dark Romance beat Coursy House 3l in 14-runner mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) with Poplin (18lb better off) 14l 7th and Crazy Crusader (26lb better off) 73l 8th. Memsahib Ofesteem 3l 2nd of 19 to Auto Pilot in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Moscow Maid 6l 2nd of 19 to Bob Cullen in handicap hurdle at Limerick (2m 1f, heavy). Octavia Hill fell in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, soft); previously 16l 5th of 16 to Spick And Span in novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to firm). Dutch Dyane 9l 3rd of 5 to Aquavita in selling hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good). Stray Harmony short head 2nd of 12 to Storm Forecast in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). Cruz Santa 28l 3rd of 16 to Symonds Inn in maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). Brancepeth Belle 8½l 3rd of 16 to Doubling Dice in selling hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good to soft). Calliope 14l 3rd of 7 to Hi Marble in novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, good to soft) with Stray Harmony (levels) 27l 5th.

Irish raider MOSCOW MAID is not easy to assess but the standard of opposition is decidedly modest

1.20 JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (£2,616: 2m) (14 runners)

201 5-352 ROUND ROBIN 11 (B) (Daisy Chain Partnership) Mrs A E Johnson 4-11-7 R Johnson 88
202 503-50 SIBOR STAR 18 (T Price) D Burchell 4-11-7 D J Burchell [illegible]
203 0-003 MARSH MARIGOLD 11 (G Fierro) G Fierro 4-11-2 X Aizpuru (3) 62
204 P150 ALLEGIANCE 13 (V,G) (C Shankland) G McCourt 3-10-12 E Husband 49
205 -2543P SURABAYA 26 (S) (Birmingham Bloodstock) F Jordan 3-10-7 A Maguire 56
206 05 DANCING AL 32 (Miss L Martin) J S Moore 3-10-5 J Magee 37
207 P00 HEY UP MATE 13 (B) (W Astbury) A Bailey 3-10-5 S Wynne 27
208 U562 RUBAMMA 32 (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 3-10-5 C Maude 55
209 0 BABANINA 13 (S Molloy) R Phillips 3-10-0 J A McCarthy 42
210 EVERY PENNY 55F (V R Bedley) F L James 3-10-0 J R Kavanagh —
211 LITTLE RISK 142F (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 3-10-0 D Leahy —
212 5 MEADGATE'S DREAMER 13 (Meadgate Homes Ltd) B Palling 3-10-0 S Durack 69
213 0 THE ROBE 20 (G Day) A Carroll 3-10-0 G Tormey —
214 6440 VICKY JAZZ 20 (B) (S Boddy) J S Moore 3-10-0 B Clifford 28

BETTING: 6-4 Rubamma, 9-2 Surabaya, 6-1 Round Robin, 7-1 Allegiance, 8-1 Sibor Star, 12-1 The Robe, 14-1 Marsh Marigold, 25-1 others

1997: CONTOSSER 4-11-9 S Wynne (9-4) M Pipe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS: Round Robin 17l 3rd of 9 to Monica's Choice in selling hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) with Marsh Marigold (levels) 21l 3rd. Sibor Star beaten a distance 12th of 14 to Heart in novice handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good to soft); previously 14l 5th of 12 to Baba Au Rhum in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). Surabaya pulled up in hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously 1¾l 3rd of 13 to Raka Hey in selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to firm). Rubamma 2l 2nd of 12 to Highbury Legend in 3yo novice claim hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, firm) with Dancing Al (6lb worse off) 6¼l 5th. Meadgate's Dreamer 23l 5th of 16 to Edwarda in 3yo novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft) with Babanina (levels) 41l 7th, Hey Up Mate (levels) 51l 8th and Allegiance (1lb worse off) 55l 11th. The Robe 36l 8th of 11 to Hit And Run in 3yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Vicky Jazz (levels) beaten a distance 9th.

RUBAMMA, claimed out of Peter Walwyn's stable after his latest second, has strong claims here

1.50 MIDLAND HANDICAP CHASE (£3,431: 2m 7f 110yd) (11 runners)

301 8PP-36 CHURCH LAW 18 (G,S) (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 11-11-10 T J Murphy 95
302 P/12-P DEBT OF HONOR 17 (B,CD,F,G) (Mrs B Neale) R Lee 10-11-10 S Durack 91
303 F153P- TITAN THAI 217 (F,S) (N Mason) N Mason 9-11-8 R Guest [illegible]
304 P-P350 TRAIL BOSS 17 (F) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 J Culloty 107
305 65P-43 ROBSAND 17 (V) (Sir Brian McGrath) G Balding 0-11-6 B Clifford 107
306 /03F3- SARAS DELIGHT 199 (Mrs O Jackson) D Nicholson 8-11-4 A Maguire —
307 4P3P-5 LUGS BRANNIGAN 17 (F) (M Fitzpatrick) M Bradstock 9-11-3 P Holley 73
308 /52F4/ THREE SAINTS 647 (B,S) (Dowager Countess Cadogan) H Daly 9-11-2 S Wynne —
309 00426- RING FOR ROSIE 198 (G) (T Nixon) H Daly 7-10-9 R Johnson 77
310 24214- RAGAMUFF 280 (BF,S) (Mrs P Wilson) P Hobbs 7-10-4 R Dunwoody 108
311 P/4F-P PRIMITIVE PENNY 24 (B,C,G,S) (Mrs P Mason) Mrs D Haine 7-10-0 B Fenton —

Long handicap: Primitive Penny 9-13.

BETTING: 7-2 Ragamuff, 5-1 Robsand, 6-1 Titan Thai, Ring For Rosie, 7-1 Debt Of Honor, 8-1 Lugs Brannigan, 10-1 Church Law, 12-1 others

1997: THE WHOLE HOG 8-11-6 N Williamson (11-4) K Bailey 3 ran

FORM FOCUS: Church Law 57l 6th of 8 to Golden Drum in handicap chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good to soft), previously 8l 3rd of 8 to Malawi in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good). Titan Thai pulled up in novice handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft), previously 6l 3rd of 4 to Nicholas Plant in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, soft). Robsand 26l 3rd of 8 to Master Chet in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to soft) with Debt Of Honor (5th worse off) pulled up. Saras Delight 27l 3rd of 12 to Lady Rebecca in novice hurdle at Bangor (3m, good). Lugs Brannigan 27l 5th of 14 to Ardrina in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to soft). Three Saints 33l 4th of 9 to Cerdhwen in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 6f, good to soft). Ring For Rosie beaten a distance 6th of 7 to Pearl's Choice in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good to soft); previously 30l 2nd of 11 to Step On Eyre in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, soft). Ragamuff 16l 4th of 10 to Luv-U-Frank in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good); previously beat High Learie 18l in 10-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good to soft).

RAGAMUFF reappears over his best trip and his trainer can be trusted to have him ready

2.20 MOSDORFER UK 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,988: 2m) (8 runners)

401 10346- TOTO TOSCATO 176 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) O Nicholson 4-12-4 A Maguire —
402 0-2126 DICTAMN 9 (B,BF,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 4-11-12 M A Fitzgerald 121
403 1405F- NEW INN 254 (D,F,G,S) (F Stewart) S Gollings 7-11-7 S Durack 121
404 2123-1 SIMONS CASTLE 17 (D,S) (Mrs B Marchant) R O'Sullivan 5-11-3 C Llewellyn 124
405 12-624 WESLEY'S LAD 13 (BF,S) (B Williams) D Burchell 4-10-11 D J Burchell [illegible]
406 42P3-4 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 18 (CD,F,G,S) (M Reveley Club) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-6 G Lee 117
407 U1111/ JURZ 923 (D,G,S) (P Slade) R Hodges 10-10-5 R Dunwoody —
408 /0322- SHEPHERDS REST 304 (D,S) (Odd Dozen) S Mellor 6-10-5 M Cotton (7) 120

BETTING: 5-2 Dictamn, 7-2 Simons Castle, 4-1 Toto Toscato, 7-1 Wesley's Lad, 8-1 New Inn, Once More For Luck, 14-1 Jurz, 16-1 Shepherds Rest.

1997: POTTER'S GALE 6-11-12 R Johnson (evens fav) O Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS: Toto Toscato 4l 6th of 7 to Makounji in hurdle at Auteuil (2m 2f, soft). Dictamn 21l 6th of 10 to Mister Morose in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft); previously 5l 2nd of 7 to The Proms in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). New Inn fell in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, soft); previously 17l 5th of 6 to Red Blazer in hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Simons Castle beat Jamaican Flight 2l in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft), previously 34l 3rd of 12 to Montroe in novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). Wesley's Lad 4l 4th of 11 to Halona in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft); previously 4l 2nd of 9 to Just Nip in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm). Once More For Luck 6¼l 4th of 8 to Out On A Promise in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). Jurz beat Robert's Toy short head in 6-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, good to soft). Shepherds Rest 5l 2nd of 15 to Tompetoo in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, soft).

DICTAMN was not disgraced in the Tote Silver Trophy latest and should find this a whole lot easier

2.50 JENNY PITMAN NOVICES CHASE (£3,106: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

501 130/44 BLOTOFT 24 (B) (R Forman) S Gollings 6-10-12 S Durack —
502 /43P0- OUR MAN FLIN 266 (The Rogerson Partnership) Mrs A E Johnson 5-10-12 R Johnson —
503 33/6- PHARSTAR 270 (W, M & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 7-10-12 M A Fitzgerald —
504 0U46P- RELKANDER 196 (Mrs M Buckley) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-12 D Leahy 61
505 0063-6 RIPARIUS 159 (D,F,G) (Mrs O Blackburn) P R Webber 7-10-12 R Garritty —
506 3F0-4P CHARMING GIRL 30 (D,G) (C Cowen) O Sherwood 7-10-7 J Osborne [illegible]
507 14102- NATIVE CHARM 195 (BF,G,S) (Pell Mell Partners) C Morlock 6-10-7 J A McCarthy —
508 0-030P THE LADY SCORES 18 (A Lousada) S Dow 6-10-7 W Marston —

BETTING: 6-4 Charming Girl, 9-2 Relkander, 11-2 Native Charm, 6-1 Pharstar, 7-1 Blotoft, 10-1 Riparius, 20-1 Our Man Flin, 25-1 The Lady Scores.

1997: KAPCO 5-10-12 G Bradley (11-4) C Brooks 3 ran

FORM FOCUS: Blotoft 25l 4th of 9 to Maradi in selling handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good to soft). Our Man Flin 83l 11th of 13 to Galllax in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). Pharstar 55l 6th of 7 to Country Beau in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good); previously 9l 3rd of 20 to Valentine Gale in national hunt flat race at Leopardstown (2m, good to soft). Relkander pulled up in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to soft); previously beaten a distance 6th of 6 to Primitive Streak in novice handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Riparius 37l 6th of 9 to Winn's Pride in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 5½l 3rd of 13 to Going For Broke in handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Charming Girl pulled up in handicap chase at Stratford (3m 1f 110yd, good); previously 16l 4th of 7 to Who's To Say in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, firm). Native Charm 3½l 2nd of 17 to Alon Alwen in mares novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good); previously 34l 7th of 17 to Cool Spring in mares handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft) with The Lady Scores (24lb worse off) 64l 12th.

NATIVE CHARM boasted some fair form over hurdles and is taken to make her chasing bow a winning one

3.20 STOUGHTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,903: 2m) (9 runners)

601 400/ BUKEHORN 950 (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 7-10-12 W Marston —
602 BURUNDI 24F (G Roberts) A Carroll 4-10-12 T J Murphy —
603 PP1/0- CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 273 (D,S) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 11-10-12 O Mathews —
604 DACHA 9F (Mrs N Chambers) Miss M Rowland 6-10-12 B Powell —
605 00 DETACHMENT 17 (Miss Z Davison) Miss Z Davison 5-10-12 C Maude 42
606 30- FOUNTAIN BANK 263 (A & Mrs L Brazier) J Spearing 5-10-12 G Tormey —
607 321-26 L'IDEFIX 30 (D,G) (Mrs P Stevenson) I George 6-10-12 J Jenks 38
608 13- NATIVE SPEAKER 200 (D,S) (J Dougall) P R Webber 5-10-12 J Osborne —
609 4065- ALIMERJAM 334 (G R Hall) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-7 Mr R Forristal (7) [illegible]

BETTING: 8-11 Native Speaker, 7-2 Burundi, 5-1 L'Idefix, 14-1 Dacha, 16-1 Fountain Bank, 33-1 Captain Stockford, Detachment, Alimerjam, 50-1 Bukehorn

1997: GIPSY GEOF 6-10-12 B Ellons (7-1) G Hubbard 13 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bukehorn 29l 13th of 22 to Listening Conductor in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Captain Stockford 47l 13th of 17 to Music Please in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). Detachment 30l 10th of 12 to Kind Prince in novice selling hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). Fountain Bank 26l 8th of 18 to Estate Agent in national hunt flat race at Wincanton (2m, good to firm); previously 34l 3rd of 22 to Percy Parkeeper in national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). L'Idefix 19l 6th of 16 to Lord Noelie in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good), previously 17l 2nd of 8 to Who Am I in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy). Native Speaker ¾l 3rd of 18 to Native Upmanship in national hunt flat race at Punchestown (2m, heavy), previously beat Percy Parkeeper 6l in 21-runner national hunt flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Alimerjam 13l 5th of 13 to Zaharie in novice selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good).

NATIVE SPEAKER, who showed a good measure of ability in two bumper starts, is the one to beat

3.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,820: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 24311/ TOTAL JOY 833 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Warren) C Mann 7-11-10 C Rafter (7) —
2 245-U3 WORLD EXPRESS 26 (F,S) (Dragon Partnership) B Millman 8-11-7 D Salter (3) [illegible]
3 21-2 MOLSUM 11 (BF,C,S) (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 5-11-5 W Marston 107
4 2333-6 GRATE TIMES 13 (B) (E Bowers) J Spearing 4-10-9 R Johnson 111

BETTING: 11-8 World Express, 5-2 Molsum, 3-1 Grate Times, 13-2 Total Joy

1997: BEECHFIELD FLYER 6-10-7 G Tormey (14-1) W Clay 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Total Joy beat Beechfield Flyer 7l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, good). World Express 4¼l 3rd of 11 to Welsh Silk in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Molsum 7l 2nd of 6 to Who Am I in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft), previously beat Rosamore Girl 5l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Grate Times 40l 6th of 13 to Rio's King in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft), previously 1¼l 3rd of 12 to Spartan Heartbeat in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good).

MOLSUM appeared just to need the race on his return but should be spot on now

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
N Henderson	9	30	30.0	G Tormey	4	12	33.3
M Pipe	21	75	28.0	J Culloty	3	11	27.3
D Nicholson	13	50	26.0	A Maguire	14	62	22.6
Miss H Knight	6	25	24.0	J Osborne	9	41	22.0
R Lee	4	18	22.2	R Dunwoody	7	32	21.9
O Sherwood	4	22	18.2	M Fitzgerald	10	48	20.8

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.00 State Wind. 1.30 Little Ibnr. 2.00 Lohan. 2.30 Twice As Sharp. 3.00 Alana's Cavalier. 3.30 Sualtach. 4.00 Arbenig. 4.30 Operatic.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.00 PEVERIL DECORATORS LTD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £1,893: 6f) (11 runners)

1 (1) 404 DEAC'S PET 20 M Johnston 9-0 J Fanning 61
2 (5) DOVEDON TIMES H Akbary 9-0 N Day —
3 (7) 2200 GOLDEN BIFF 18 I Semple 9-0 R Lappin 85
4 (6) 00 RED APOLLO 10 A Stewart 9-0 T G McLaughlin 11
5 (3) 000 STATE WIND 44 N Littmoden 9-0 M Wigham 61
6 (9) 0 WARRING KINGDOM 27 (E) John Berry 9-0 D O'Shea —
7 (4) WHATSITSNAME J Eyre 9-0 O Pears —
8 (8) 0 BLIZZARD 11 B Smart 8-9 R Perham —
9 (11) 0334 CRYSTAL LASS 16 (B) J Balding 8-9 J Edmunds [illegible]
10 (10) 0 DEBBIE'S HOPE 156 K Mahdi 8-9 J Quinn —
11 (2) 5650 SEREN TEG 41 B Palling 8-9 G Faulkner (3) 70

5-2 Deac's Pet, 4-1 Crystal Lass, 5-1 Seren Teg, 6-1 Golden Biff, 10-1 others.

1.30 STOURBRIDGE SELLING STAKES (Div I: £1,564: 7f) (12)

1 (8) 0200 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 30 (D) P Howling 4-9-3 J Quinn 72
2 (9) 6010 ROFFEY SPINNEY 21 (D,G) J Cullinan 4-9-3 J O Smith (3) [illegible]
3 (2) 0000 DAVIS ROCK 24 (C,D,G) W Muir 4-8-12 T Sprake 85
4 (1) 6565 EASTLEIGH 113 R Hollinshead 9-8-12 Lisa Watson (7) 40
5 (3) 0000 JULMAT JOHN 17 (B,D,S) E Alston 6-8-12 L Charnock 68
6 (6) 6646 LITTLE IBNR 200 (C,D,F) P Evans 7-8-12 Dane O'Neill 54
7 (11) 0000 MULLAGH HILL LAD 48 N Littmoden 5-8-12 T McLaughlin 78
8 (4) 4230 PEGASUS BAY 32 (D,F) D Cantillon 7-8-12 G Carter 84
9 (12) 0501 BABY SPICE 30 (CD) R J Houghton 3-8-11 A Culhane 61
10 (7) 0000 TOM 56 (V) C Fairhurst 3-8-11 Dean McKeown 57
11 (10) 403- SUN FAIRY 56J O Burchell 4-8-7 S Drowne —
12 (5) 0000 DOWNCLOSE DUCHESS 11 P Eccles 3-8-6 G Faulkner (3) 50

5-2 Baby Spice, 5-1 Davis Rock, 6-1 Roffey Spinney, 7-1 Pegasus Bay, 10-1 others.

2.00 PEVERIL DECORATORS LTD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £1,882: 6f) (11)

1 (4) 0650 BRIDGEND BLUE 58 M Bell 9-0 M Fenton [illegible]
2 (6) 00 LOHAN 11 Miss Z Davison 9-0 T Sprake —
3 (5) PERUVIAN STAR N Littmoden 9-0 T G McLaughlin —
4 (11) 02 SEVEN SPRINGS 28 R Hollinshead 9-0 W Ryan 29
5 (3) 00 WINLEAH 17 A Newcombe 9-0 O Griffiths (3) 15
6 (2) B GRADE THE SECOND Miss J Craze 8-9 T Williams —
7 (10) FEROCITY M Jarvis 8-9 J Quinn —
8 (7) 0 FREYA 10 A Stewart 8-9 G Carter —
9 (7) 6303 HARQUEBUSIER 47 J Pearce 8-9 G Bardwell 44
10 (8) 0 LADY OODJOB 18 K McAuliffe 8-9 A Culhane 55
11 (9) 0 TRICKS 88 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 Dane O'Neill 34

4-1 Bridgend Blue, 5-1 Seven Springs, 11-2 Tricks, 8-1 Ferocity, 8-1 others

2.30 GAILEY HANDICAP (£3,485: 6f) (13)

1 (8) 0100 FIRST MAITE 14 (B,C,G) S Bowring 5-10-0 C Teague (3) 89
2 (7) 4000 CARAMBO 37 (CD) J Eyre 3-10-0 R FitzPatrick (5) 81
3 (10) -002 TWICE AS SHARP 14 (D,G) P Harris 8-10-0 A Culhane 80
4 (11) 11P0 DOUBLE-O 10 (CD) W Jarvis 4-10-0 G Carter 77
5 (13) 4000 URSA MAJOR 30 (D) C Allen 4-9-11 J Weaver 90
6 (4) 1110 QUIET VENTURE 45 (F,G) I Semple 4-9-10 R Lappin 90
7 (1) 0110 SIHAFI 10 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 5-9-9 Alex Greaves 81
8 (6) 2024 JUWWI 10 (BF,C,D,F) J Bradley 4-9-8 C Carver (7) 80
9 (12) 0040 JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 14 (D,G) M Dods 4-9-6 F Lynch 89
10 (3) 0400 BLUE KITE 30 (V,C) N Littmoden 3-9-4 J Quinn 88
11 (9) 5500 TANGERINE FLYER 86 P Evans 3-9-4 C Cogan (7) [illegible]
12 (2) 0028 DEMOLITION JO 9 (V,D,F,G,S) P Evans 3-9-2 F Norton 93
13 (5) 3046 ZIGGY'S DANCER 32 (CD,F,G) E Alston 7-9-1 L Charnock 97

7-2 Demolition Jo, 4-1 Ziggy's Dancer, 11-2 Juwwi, 7-1 Quiet Venture, 8-1 Twice As Sharp, 10-1 Sihafi, 12-1 Double-O, Jeffrey Anotherred, 16-1 others.

3.00 TITUS TOOL COMPANY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,180: 1m 1f 79yd) (8)

1 (8) 00 DOBAANDI SECRET 9 P Evans 8-11 F Norton 15
2 (5) 0033 ALANA'S CAVALIER 25 R Hollinshead 8-8 W Ryan [illegible]
3 (7) 0 CHARTER FLIGHT 27 A Newcombe 8-8 J Quinn 20
4 (3) 8 PIP'S BRAVE 142 M Polglase 8-5 Dean McKeown 62
5 (4) 000 SHADY DEAL 38 M Usher 8-5 T Sprake 45
6 (2) 040 BLUE PERU 61 B Smart 8-0 A Nicholls (5) 50
7 (6) 6663 CHARLIELPAGEU'S 30 W Turner 8-0 P Fitzsimons (7) 37
8 (1) 000 JELLYBEEN 25 Miss G Kelleway 8-0 S Drowne 52

5-2 Pip's Brave, 7-2 Shady Deal, 4-1 Jellybeen, 5-1 Alana's Cavalier, 6-1 others.

3.30 49'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£7,068: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 (12) 5331 DIAMOND WHITE 10 (G) K Wingrove 3-10-3 R Price 98
2 (2) 0140 PEARTREE HOUSE 18 (D,G) W Muir 4-10-0 Dane O'Neill 83
3 (9) 2100 CELESTIAL KEY 16 (D,F,G) M Johnston 8-9-11 J Fanning 73
4 (1) 0000 DANZINO 60 (V,C,D) Mrs N Macauley 3-9-11 P McCabe 94
5 (10) 0120 PASS THE REST 66 (CD,S) D Shaw 3-9-9 A Culhane 84
6 (5) 0142 SHARP REBUFF 33 (BF,D,F,G,S) P Makin 7-9-9 A Clark 92
7 (13) 0-80 MIGWAR 18 (F) N Littmoden 5-9-9 J Quinn —
8 (6) 1123 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 12 (V,C) P Evans 4-9-9 C Cogan (7) 86
9 (8) 3430 PAS DE MEMOIRES 30 (C) K Burke 3-9-7 D McKeown 82
10 (11) 2300 ZIMIRI 118 (D) J Toller 4-9-4 G Carter [illegible]
11 (3) 4215 BE WARNED 18 (V,C,D,F,G,S) J Peace 7-9-4 M Wigham 87
12 (7) 0610 SUALTACH 23 (CD,F,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-2 W Ryan 90
13 (4) 2400 CHINA CASTLE 44 (CD) P Haslam 5-9-0 M Tebbutt 81

9-2 Be Warned, 5-1 Diamond White, 7-1 Pass The Rest, Italian Symphony, 8-1 Sharp Rebuff, Pas De Memoires, 10-1 Celestial Key, Sualtach, 12-1 others

4.00 STOURBRIDGE SELLING STAKES (Div II: £1,564: 7f) (12)

1 (11) 0140 SALTY BEHAVIOUR 44 (G) R Hannon 4-9-3 Dane O'Neill 75
2 (10) 0066 KOLBY 97 (BF,F) A Bailey 3-9-2 J Weaver 68
3 (7) 3440 C-HARRY 44 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-8-12 W Ryan 71
4 (9) 5000 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 143 N Littmoden 5-8-12 T McLaughlin 74
5 (6) 4032 NAPOLEON'S RETURN 12 (G) J Eyre 5-8-12 L Charnock 53
6 (12) 5040 PRINCIPAL BOY 193 (D,G) Miss Gaze 5-8-12 T Williams 61
7 (6) 5004 RAMSEY HOPE 3 (B,C,F) C Fairhurst 5-8-12 D McKeown [illegible]
8 (2) 6500 SUPER PARK 107 (S) J Pearce 6-8-12 G Bardwell 55
9 (5) 2200 ZAHRAN 26 (D,F) J Bradley 7-8-12 C Carver (7) 61
10 (3) 0004 ARBENIG 27 (C,D,F) B Palling 3-8-11 G Faulkner (3) 83
11 (1) 0003 CAPRIOARA 21 J L Harris 3-8-6 R Winston (3) 66
12 (4) 000- MERCURY FALLING 375 D Arbuthnot 3-8-6 R Price —

7-2 Salty Behaviour, 4-1 Ramsey Hope, 5-1 Napoleon's Return, 8-1 others.

4.30 BRIDGTOWN HANDICAP (£2,885: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 (3) 5103 IL PRINCIPE 12 (E,F,G,S) John Berry 4-9-11 M Fenton 65
2 (8) 4005 ARCTIC THUNDER 44 (G) B Palling 7-9-10 G Faulkner (3) 65
3 (11) 0012 ISABELLA GONZAGA 21 (C,F) R Cowell 4-9-8 J Weaver 72
4 (4) 1222 OPERATIC 30 (V,CD,F) P Evans 3-9-3 F Norton 80
5 (8) 0065 BACK ROW 34 (S) J Hetherton 4-9-2 T Sprake 90
6 (1) 0064 COLERIDGE 55 (B,D,F,S) J Sheehan 10-9-1 J Wilson (7) 38
7 (12) 63-3 DANCING CAVALIER 22 (D,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 P M Quinn (7) 73
8 (9) 0060 CROW'S NEST 30 Lord Huntingdon 3-9-0 W Ryan 59
9 (10) 0204 PARADISE NAVY 30 (B) C Egerton 5-8-12 Sophie Mitchell [illegible]
10 (2) 1113 MUSALSE 44 (BF,F) P Haslam 3-8-11 L Charnock 71
11 (7) 4000 SILVER CASTOR 30 P Harris 3-8-11 A Culhane 78
12 (5) 1002 PERTEMPS MISSION 53 (V,F) J Pearce 4-8-2 R Price 87

7-2 Il Principe, 4-1 Isabella Gonzaga, 5-1 Operatic, 6-1 Musalse, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Stewart, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; W Jarvis, 12 from 34, 35.3%; R Johnson Houghton, 3 from 11, 27.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 25 from 104, 24.0%; J Toller, 6 from 25, 24.0%; M Johnston, 61 from 275, 22.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 66 winners from 308 rides, 21.4%; Alex Greaves, 12 from 69, 17.4%; W Ryan, 8 from 50, 16.0%; Dane O'Neill, 13 from 84, 15.5%; O Pears, 6 from 39, 15.4%; C Carver, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leicester: 12.50 Octavia Hill. 1.20 Hey Up Mate. 1.50 Three Saints, Primitive Penny, Robsand. **Wolverhampton:** 1.00 Warring Kingdom. 2.30 Blue Kite.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

1.05 North Tyne. 1.40 Kelly Mac. 2.10 Alpine Panther. 2.40 Rahanine Melody. 3.10 Reflex Courier. 3.40 Hal Hoo Yaroom.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.05 CURRAGH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,373: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1 BRIGHTER BYFAAH 25F N Graham 5-10-12 P Hide
2 P0- CARDINAL COSH 187 R Rowe 5-10-12 R McCarthy (7)
3 3- DAYBROOK RAMBLER 232P P Winkworth 5-10-12 O McPhail (5)
4 P-32 HARIK 24 (BF) G L Moore 4-10-12 G Bradley
5 I'M IMRAN C Egerton 7-10-12 O Gallagher
6 3-4 IRISH OPTION 35 J Gifford 5-10-12 L Aspell
7 F0-3 KERANI 31 K Bell 6-10-12 B Upton
8 12- NORTH TYNE 237 (F) R Alner 4-10-12 A Thornton
9 00-P PAMPERED PILOT 19 P Hedger 5-10-12 M Richards
10 02- POLAR FLIGHT 180 Miss V Williams 4-10-12 N Williamson
11 RUM BABA 25F C Collins (Ire) 4-10-12 P Niven
12 F-0P SMART GUY 14 Mrs L Jewell 6-10-12 T Peoples (7)
13 1/0- RURAL RUN 336 (S) P Nicholls 7-10-7 J Tizzard

9-4 Polar Flight, 11-4 Harik, 9-2 Irish Option, 7-1 North Tyne, 10-1 Rum Baba, 12-1 I'm Imran, 14-1 Rural Run, 16-1 others.

1.40 TOTE NOVICES CHASE (£4,182: 2m 5f) (5)

1 32-1 RAFFLES ROOSTER 7 (S) Miss V Williams 6-11-5 N Williamson
2 43-6 CHEEKY CHARLIE 26 (B,G) G L Moore 8-10-13 P Hide
3 0-4P JOKER JACK 14 (F,S) R Dean 13-10-13 I Dascombe
4 23P- KELLY MAC 215 (F,G,S) D O'Brien 6-10-13 A Thornton
5 P-PP SCAVO 140 (S) D O'Brien 7-10-13 M Batchelor (5)

4-5 Raffles Rooster, 9-4 Kelly Mac, 9-2 Cheeky Charlie, 25-1 Scavo, 33-1 Joker Jack.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Charles-Jones, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; P Hedger, 7 from 28, 25.0%; P Nicholls, 5 from 21, 23.8%; C Egerton, 4 from 19, 21.1%; R Head, 3 from 15, 20.0%; C Mann, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Richards, 10 winners from 56 rides, 17.9%; M Batchelor, 6 from 50, 12.0%; P Hide, 6 from 50, 12.0%. Only qualifiers.

2.10 PERSHING SECURITIES GLCT CLAIMING HURDLE (£3,550: 2m 4f) (5)

1 501- ALPINE PANTHER 25F (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6 P Niven
2 444- TICKERTY'S GIFT 201 (F,S) G L Moore 6-11-0 M Batchelor (5)
3 33-5 ABSOLUTE PROOF O W G M Turner 5-10-9 J Power (7)
4 1161 AUBURN BOY 26 (C,F,G) I Williams 11-10-6 N Williamson
5 3-06 SORBIERE 28 (F) D Grissell 11-10-6 A Thornton

5-4 Alpine Panther, 9-4 Auburn Boy, 7-2 Tickerty's Gift, 12-1 Sorbiere, 16-1 Absolute Proof.

2.40 BRITISH EQUESTRIAN INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,143: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 114U RAHANINE MELODY 12 (F,G,S) A J Martin (Ire) 6-12-0 G Bradley
2 FF2- RIGHTSAIDFRED 202 (G,S) Miss A N-Smith 10-11-11 Mr P Bull
3 P2F- DANCETILLYOUDROP 196 (S) P Nicholls 7-11-4 J Tizzard
4 1-P4 ANOTHER DEADLY 12 (C,S) T Casey 11-11-1 M Clarke
5 2-34 MR CHATAWAY 14 D Grissell 7-10-13 A Thornton
6 2/R- WHIPPERS DELIGHT 527 (S) G C-Jones 10-10-10 Mr A C-Jones

2-1 Dancetillyoudrop, 3-1 Rahanine Melody, 7-2 Mr Chataway, 6-1 Rightsaidfred, 6-1 Another Deadly, 12-1 Whippers Delight.

3.10 SMURFIT MAIDEN CHASE (£3,209: 2m 5f) (10)

1 43-F A-EL-CEE 11 (BF) S Sherwood 7-11-6 G Bradley
2 121- I'VE COPPED IT 219P (S) R Head 8-11-6 A Thornton
3 3/0/ IVY BOY 697 C Mann 8-11-6 Mr N Fehily (7)
4 PP- JEWELLER'S WELLS 207 D O'Brien 6-11-6 P Hide
5 P4/4 MELLING 13 (S) R Hodges 7-11-6 J Harris (5)
6 11-4 MR MCCARNEY 12 (S) P Nicholls 6-11-6 J Tizzard
7 4 REFLEX COURIER 17 J Upson 6-11-6 I Supple
8 P-60 SECURON GALE 16 R Rowe 6-11-6 L Aspell
9 1P2- VIKING ROD 199P (G) M Wilkinson 6-11-6 G Bazin (7)
10 06-6 FOUNTAIN VILLE 13 M Madgwick 5-11-5 M Richards

4-5 A-El-Cee, 7-2 Mr Mccarney, 6-1 Reflex Courier, 12-1 I've Copped It, 16-1 Viking Rod, 20-1 Melling, Securon Gale, 25-1 others.

3.40 LADBROKE LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,670: 2m 1f) (5)

1 4133 HAL HOO YAROOM 38 (CD,F) J Jenkins 5-11-10 N Williamson
2 5111 GLOWING PATH 13 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-11-9 T Dascombe
3 3-5F FORT KNOX 12 (CD,S) R Flower 7-11-8 P Hide
4 2-00 DICK MCCARTHY 14 R Rowe 6-11-7 R McCarthy (7)
5 56-0 DERISBAY 12 (CD,F,G,S) J Bridger 10-10-8 L Cummins (5)

5-4 Glowing Path, 9-4 Hal Hoo Yaroom, 6-1 Fort Knox, 7-1 Derisbay, 10-1 Dick McCarthy.

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هكذا من الأصل

Y NOVEMBER 16 1998

THUNDERER
2.20 Simons Castle
2.50 Charming Girl
3.20 Native Speaker
3.50 MOLSUM (nap)
1.20 SIBOR STAR.

...ARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

STEVENAGE: Quality Hotels Tour: Fifth match: England 3 China 2 (Men. Singles: A South lost to Z Yong 15-13, 12-15, 15-9 Doubles: J Anderson and N Waterman bt F Yong and J Shan 15-7, 10-15, 15-10 Women: Singles: T Hallam lost to H Ting 11-2, 11-8. Doubles: S Hardaker and J Davies bt T Chun Yu and D Fang 15-7, 15-4 Mixed doubles: J Anderson and J Davies bt Z Yi and P Hongyan 15-4, 15-12). Sixth match: England 0 China 5 (Men. Singles: R Nock lost to X Hui 8-15, 2-15 Doubles: A Clark and J Sullivan lost to X Xuawze and C Yun 15-7, 9-15, 6-15 Women Singles. T Hallam lost to D Fang 5-11, 1-11 Doubles: J Goode and G Emms lost to G Ling and L Ying 10-15, 6-15. Mixed doubles: I Sullivan and G Emms lost to D Chuanhai and L Ying 15-1, 11-15, 12-15).
☐ China win best-of-six series 5-1

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Newcastle Eagles 77 Manchester Giants 84 Saturday: Birmingham Bullets 77 Derby Storm 85, Greater London Leopards 91 Chester Jets 95, Leicester Riders 82 London Towers 72: Thames Valley Tigers 77 Milton Keynes Lions 70; Worthing Bears 94 Edinburgh Rocks 97 Yesterday: Milton Keynes Lions 75 Newcastle Eagles 79, Sheffield Sharks 115 Greater London Leopards 81

	P	W	L	Pts
Manchester Giants	15	14	1	28
Sheffield Sharks	14	13	1	26
Derby Storm	14	10	4	20
Thames Valley	12	8	4	16
Birmingham Bullets	13	8	5	16
London Towers	11	6	5	12
Newcastle Eagles	14	6	8	12
Leopards	11	4	7	8
Chester Jets	14	4	10	8
Leicester Riders	14	4	10	8
Worthing Bears	12	3	9	6
Milton Keynes Lions	13	3	10	6
Edinburgh Rocks	11	1	10	2

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL) Men: First division: Cardiff C 91 Cardiff P 87; Mid Sussex 84 Plymouth 77; Oxford 102 Solihull 92; Solent 89 Brixton 71, Westminster 60 Coventry 77 Second division: Birmingham 86 Swindon 72; Northampton 71 Flintshire 83; Portsmouth 73 Liverpool 76, Slough 63 Bournemouth 62, Taunton 91 Wandsworth 75; Thames Valley 81 Manchester 96 Third division: NW London 76 Barking and Dagenham 66; Sutton 88 Doncaster 75. Women: First division: Ipswich 61 Nottingham 99; Leicester 26 Rhondda 90; Northampton 85 Doncaster 71. Sheffield 63 London T 47, Thames Valley 98 NW London 80 Second division: Manchester 57 Chelmsford 33.

BOBSLEIGHING

CALGARY: World Cup four-man event: 1, Germany III 1min 51 12sec; 2, Germany I 1:51.22; 3, France I 1:51.25. 4, Great Britain I (S Olsson, D Ward, A Lewis and E Selwator) 1 51 34. 5, Switzerland II 1.51 38; 6, Switzerland I 1.51.44, 7, Germany II 1:51 45; 8, Canada I 1:51 54; 9, Latvia I 1:51 67; 10, Italy I 1:51.89

BOWLS

KOWLOON: Manulife Hong Kong International Classic Pairs: Session eleven: Group A: Hong Kong bt Club de Recreio 27-16, Australia bt Indian RC 28-8, England bt Craigengower CC 24-16; HKCC bt Malaysia 22-14, Zimbabwe bt Kowloon CC 36-5 Wales bt Victoria 23-13 England, Hong Kong, Australia and Wales qualified for quarter-finals Group B: HKLBA bt New Zealand 22-18; Scotland bt HKFC 24-14; Ireland bt HK Police 22-16; Kowloon BC bt Filipino Club 28-14, South Africa bt Canada 28-11; Channel Islands bt Sha Tin 24-13 South Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong LBA and Canada qualified for quarter-finals. Quarter-finals: A Wills and S Airey (Eng) bt I Jones and K Roney (Can) 19-16. L Parker and D Tso (HKLBA) bt A Carstairs and N Kennedy (HK) 20-14. A Jeffery and R Johnston (Aus) bt P Girdler and B Baldwin (NZ) 24-15. J Greenslade and R Price (Wales) bt R Donnelly and N Burkett (SA) 29-11 Semi-finals: England bt Australia 17-16; Wales bt HKLBA Final: England bt Wales 26-7

HOME COUNTIES INDOOR LEAGUE: Surrey 141 (4pts) Sussex 165 (8pts)

INTER-COUNTY INDOOR MATCHES: Hampshire 106 Wiltshire 131. Surrey 221 Norfolk 96

NATIONAL UNDER-25 INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP Lancashire 50, Durham 37

ENGLISH WOMEN'S INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Vivienne Trophy): Second round: Nottingham bt Newark 94-63 Leicester bt Carlton 90-64, Melton Mowbray bt Lincoln 88-58. Gedling bt Charnwood 87-79; City of Ely bt Cambridge Chesterton 82-61; Lawson Park bt Huntingdon & Godmanchester 116-70; Bedford Borough bt Kingsthorpe 83-75 Northampton bt Kettering 75-71. Shotford bt Wymondham Dell (disqualified), Norfolk bt Diss 100-39, County Arts bt Gallow 79-77; Beccles bt Clacton 79-66, Towerlands bt Jacks Centre 92-81; Ipswich bt Tilbury 97-78, Colchester bt Mid Suffolk 87-62, Havering bt David Lloyd 81-79, The Lawns bt Century 85-69; Ilford bt Tye Green 84-69; Barking bt Glebelands 105-46. Desborough bt Cherwell 96-65; Herga bt Foxhill 93-62, Banbury Cross bt Stevenage 82-65; Herts bt Riverain 99-62; Swindon Westlecot bt Rugby Thornfield 78-71. Birmingham bt Leominster 89-63, Perdiswell bt Chipping Norton 91-65; Malvern Hills bt Benham 83-80; Sutton bt Cambridge Park 87-61, Crystal Palace bt Croydon 66-65. King George Field bt Hounslow 74-72: Old Coulsdon bt Donyngs 97-54, Camberley bt Wey Valley 84-57, Sevenoaks bt Prince Arthur 103-66. Dartford Stone Lodge bt Angel (Tonbridge) 95-41, Whiteoak bt Mote Park 78-72, Deangate Ridge bt Folkestone 82-74. Dolphin bt Palmerston 103-65. Bournemouth bt Five Rivers 77-73, Atherley bt Arun 88-76, Banister Park wo Stour Vale, Yate bt Taunton Deane 109-59. Plymouth Civil Service bt Newquay 83-80, Kingsley bt Torbay 87-72. Teignbridge wo Bodmin, Isca bt West Cornwall 81-68

BOXING

GRUNDY PARK LEISURE CENTRE, Cheshunt: World Boxing Organisation inter-continental light-middleweight title (vacant): K Lueshing (Beckenham) bt N Thurbin (Loughton) pts Light-heavyweight (8rnds): M Bowen (West Ham) bt R Peel (Llandovery) ret 4th. Middleweight (6rnds) S Fearon (Forest Hill) bt K Kaihau (Doncaster) ko 5th Featherweight (6rnds): M Gomez (Manchester) bt D Jeffreys (Bournemouth) rsc 1st Super-bantamweight (6rnds): S Oates (Fulham) bt C Jickells (Brigg) pts.
LEDYARD, Connecticut: World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association light-heavyweight championship: R Jones jnr (US, holder) bt D Grant (Can) rsc 10th. International Boxing Federation light-weight championship: S Mosley (US, holder) bt J Leija (US) rsc 9th
MONT-DE-MARSAN, France: World Boxing Association cruiserweight championship: F Tiozzo (Fr, holder) bt E Paxao (Br) ko 2nd.
LAS VEGAS: World Boxing Association strawweight championship (vacant) R Lopez (Mex) bt R Alvarez (Nic) pts

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Kimberley (second day of four). Griqualand West 271 (M Dillon 4-70); West Indians 327-6 (B C Lara 101, C L Hooper 64 not out, D Ganga 50).
SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth (third day of four) Western Australia 319-9 dec (S M Katich 120 not out, M E Hussey 71, A C Gilchrist 55; P R Reiffel 4-68) and 53-3. Victoria 254-9 dec (J L Arnberger 97)
MERCANTILE CUP: Adelaide: South Australia 172 (49 4 overs), New South Wales 173-3 (44.3 overs, M Taylor 59). New South Wales beat South Australia by seven wickets

CYCLING

Cyclo-cross

BCCA National Trophy: Second round (Ashton Court, Bristol, 16km): 1, 6 Clarke (Team Raleigh) 1hr 0min 32sec, 2, N Craig (Diamond Back) at 1sec; 3, T Gould (Team Schwinn) 32; 4, C Sturgeon (Raleigh) 42; 5, 6 Blunt (Ace RT) 1min 06sec, 8, S Knight (Peugeot 406) 1 18. Overall: 1, 6 Clarke 100pts; 2, S Knight 74; 3, R Thackray (Pace Racing) 68
REDHILL CC (The Nower, Dorking, 11 miles): 1, J Webb (Redhill CC) 1.00:22. 2, S Bowers (Dorset Rough Riders) at 17sec; 3, A Taylor (Sutton Oilroad CC) 1 53.
DIDCOT PHOENIX (Newbury Showground, 10 miles). 1, R Rumbelow (Hargroves Cycles) 58:02; 2, A Butt (Hargroves Cycles) at 40sec; 3, A Nixon (GA Cycles) at 41
ST HELENS CRC (Shardley Park, 12 miles): 1, D Kay (Merlin-Rock Lobster) 1:00:17; 2. A Betts (Macclesfield Wheelers) at 1:43. 3, R Barrett (Ride On) 2:10
LIVERPOOL CENTURY RC (Otterspool Park, 10 miles): 1, R Barrett (Ride On) 57 34; 2. M Bailey (Team Chevin) at 1.08; 3, P Howarth (Zodiac CRC) 2.47.

EQUESTRIANISM

BERLIN WORLD CUP SHOW: Eternit Grand Prix: 1, Traxdata Carnavelly (P Charles, Ire) 0 faults in 33.83sec; 2, San Patrignano Joly (F Sloothaak, Ger) 0 in 34 39. 3, Power Light (A Pollmann-Schweckhorst, Ger); 4, Abbervail Dream (D Lampard, GB) 0 in 35 93. World Cup qualifier: 1, Poor Boy (B Mandli, Switz) 0 in 30 43; 2, Radiator (R Tebbel, Ger) 0 in 31.96, 3, Neron de la Tourelle (L Beerbaum, Ger) 0 in 32.74. British placing: 13, Abbervail Dream (D Lampard) 4. World Cup standings: 1, B Mandli (Switz) 27pts; equal 2, P Raymakers (Holl) and T Coyle (Ire) 20. World Cup dressage qualifier: 1, Nissan Antony (I Warth, Ger) 79 58, 2, Rusty (U Salzgeber, Ger) 78 32. 3. Souvereen (J Wirths, Ger) 75 89 British placing: 6, Hiscox Askari (R Dawson) 69 69

GYMNASTICS

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Men's British championships: Senior: 1, C Heap (North Tyne. floor: 7 950, pommel: 8 950, rings: 8.250, vault 9 300, parallel: 8.850, high bar: 8 000) 53.300pts: 2, A Atherton (Park Wreakin; F: 8 000, P: 8 750, R: 8 450, V: 9.350, Pa 8 950, HB: 8 450) 52 950, 3, R Brewer (Woking; F: 6 450, P: 8 050, R 8 150, V: 8 550, Pa. 9.300, HB 9 000) 52 500, 4, D Brindle (Leeds: F: 8 400, P: 8 650, R: 8 600, V: 8 900, Pa: 7 700, HB. 7 750) 49 900. 5, J Smethurst (Manchester, F. 8 450, P: 7 450, R: 9 000. V: 8.550, Pa: 8.050, HB: 8.250) 49 750 Under-18: 1, M Thompson (Huntingdon) 47 850, equal 2, D Eaton (Hinckley) and U Podobin (Milton Keynes) 47 750 Under-16: 1, 6 Dennison (Stoke) 50 000; 2, J Evans (Park Wreakin) 48 650; equal 3, M Wilson (Basingstoke) and M Freeman (Manchester) 47 100

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston 2 Teddington 1, Brooklands 1 Old Loughtonians 2; Cannock 2 Reading 2; East Grinstead 3 Guildford 5, Hounslow 2 Canterbury 3; Southgate 3 Bournville 2. First division: Chelmsford 1 Bromley 2; Doncaster 3 Hampstead 2; Harleston Magpies 4 Barford Tigers 4: Havant 1 Loughborough St 2: Hull 0 Isca 3; Indian Gymkhana 6 Oxford Univ 1: Lewes 2 Stourport 2; Oxford Hawks 2 Firebrands 2: St Albans 2 Eastcote 3, Sheffield 2 Surbiton 2
NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowdon 3 Ben Rhydding 3, Chester 2 Harrogate 3, Norton 2 Durham University 1, Rotherham 1 Neston 5; Sheffield Bankers 3 Formby 0; Warrington 4 Southport 5 First division: Brooklands 1 Timperley 3; Doncaster 4 City of York 1, Durham University II 1 Wigan 1; Lytham St Anne's 3 Disley 0, Springfields 0 Deeside Ramblers 1, Swalwell 4 Stockton 2.
DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Midlands premier: Edgbaston 3 Leek 2: Hampton-in-Arden 1 Northampton Saints 1; Harborne 4 Coventry and North Warwick 1, Khalsa 2 Nottingham 2; Olton and West Warwick 2 North Stafford 2 Shrewsbury 3 North Notts 2

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich 2 Hightown 1; Leicester 4 Clifton 2 Olton 3 Doncaster 2: Slough 5 6 Coldfield 2 Standings: 1, Ipswich 6-16, 2, Slough 5-13. 3. Olton 6-9 First division: Aldridge 2 Sunderland 0. Bradford 1 Loughboro 3 1, Canterbury 5 Wimbledon 1, Trojans 1 Chelmsford 1. Standings: 1, Aldridge 13pts, 2, Canterbury 12, 3, Trojans 9. Second division: Bracknell 2 Sherwood 1: Ealing 2 St Albans 0; Old Loughtonians 4 Hampton-in-Arden 1; Poynton 1 Woking 5 Standings: 1, Woking 18pts; 2, Ealing 15; 3, St Albans 10.
EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Third round: Aldridge 8 Letchworth 0, Banbury 0 Woking 6, Basingstoke 1 Trojans 8, Billingham 2 Morpeth 0; Blackburn N 3 Bromsgrove 0; Canterbury 6 Worcester N 0, Clifton SL wo Cambs C. Crosby 0 Hightown 7: Driffield 2 Northampton 2 Dulwich 4 Sunderland A 3. Eastbourne 3 Epsom 3 (Eastbourne win 5-4 on pens); Exeter 1 Chester 2; Exmouth 0 Harleston M 4: Hampton 3 Ipswich 8. Havant 0 Slough 12; Kettering 0 Doncaster 9; Leyland M 1 Bury St Edmonds 1 (Bury St Edmonds win 2-1 on pens); Liverpool S 5 Wallington 0; Luton T 2 Basildon 1: Maidenhead 0 Horsham 1, Middleton 0 Loughboro S 8, Olton T 4 Sunbury 0. Pickwick OS 0 Bradford 8: Sheffield 7 Matlock 6 1; Sherwood 3 W Witney 2: St Albans 1 Leicester 4; Sutton C 7 St Austell 0: Tulse Hill 1 Poynton 0; Walton 1 Bracknell 8. Wimbledon 7 Surbiton 0. Winchmore Hill 0 Chelmsford H 7
WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bury St Edmonds 1 Harleston 3; Cambs C 1 Letchworth 1; Dereham 1 Blueharts 2, Ipswich 4 Ashford 0. Standings: 1, Harleston 8-14, 2, Ipswich 8-13. 3, Letchworth 7-11 Midlands: Belper 0 Bedford 5: Crimson R 1 Luton 2; Kettering 2 N Staffs 1; Loughborough 3 1 Olton 2. Standings: 1, Bedford 15pts, 2, Kettering 13; 3, Loughboro 11 North: Deeside R 1 Liverpool 0; Don Valley 3 Blackburn 5, Leyland M 5 Chester 0; Winnington Pk 4 Sheffield 1 Standings: 1, Deeside 16pts, 2, Liverpool 13, 3, Leyland 10 South: City of Ports 0 Winchester 0; Hendon 0 W Witney 7: Horsham 2 Dulwich 3; Reading 2 Maidenhead 2; Tulse Hill 2 Rover 3 Standings: 1, Dulwich 18pts; 2, Rover 18; 3, Southampton 15 West: Bournemouth 1 Portishead 1. Exeter 2 Redland 0. Exmouth 1 Colwall 0; Leominster 3 St Austell 5; T Vale 3 Cheltenham 4 Standings: 1, Colwall 7-18: 2 Exeter 6-14, 3, Exmouth 6-12
WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Saturday: Cardiff Ath 3 Newtown 5; Cwmtawe 0 Penarth 1; Newport 3 Colwyn Bay 7; Swansea 10 UWIC 4 Yesterday: Cardiff Ath 1 Colwyn Bay 5, Newport 1 Newtown 4, Penarth 0 Swansea 7; UWIC 6 Cwmtawe 2. Standings: 1, Swansea 5-10; 2, Newtown 3-6; 3, Penarth 5-6.

ICE SKATING

MILTON KEYNES: Senior British championships: Men: 1, C Shorten (Chelmsford) 1 5; 2, M Davies (Dundonald) 4.0; 3, S Bell (Solihull) 4.0; 4, A Street (Blackburn) 5 5; 5, I Macadam (NISA) 7 5 Women: 1, S Main (Murrayfield) 1 5, 2, T Sear (Milton Keynes) 4 0; 3, Z Jones (Blackburn, Swindon) 4 5 Ice dance: 1, C Clements and G Shortland (Slough) 2.4, 2, S Kerr and J Ferguson (Aberdeen, Altrincham) 4.6, 3, M Humphreys and V Baranov (Blackburn, Deeside) 5.8 Pairs: 1, M Poluliaschenko and A Seabrook (Swindon) 1 5; 2, K Wenger and D Thomas (Chelmsford) 3.5, 3, S Kemp and M Aldred (Chelmsford, Bracknell) 4 0
GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany: Nations Cup: Men: 1, A Yagudin (Russ) 1.5 factored placings, 2, A Abt (Russ) 3 0. 3, A Vlascenko (Ger) 4.5 Women: 1, E Sokolova (Russ) 1.5 factored placings, 2, Y Lavrenchuk (Ukr) 3.5, 3, M Butyrskaya (Russ) 4 0 Ice dance: 1, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 2 0pts; 2, S-L Bourne and V Kraatz (Can) 4 0 3, K Winkler and R Lohse (Ger) 6.0 Pairs: 1. M Petrova and A Tichonov (Russ) 1.5pts, 2, P Schwarz and M Mueller (Ger) 3 0; 3, T and J Sliegler (US) 5 0.

ROWING

FULLERS FOURS HEAD OF THE RIVER (Mortlake to Putney) Men: Quad sculls: Open: Tideway Scullers/Worcester/London 17min 36sec (record). Senior I: Star Club III 18:33 Senior II: London VI 18:12 Junior: Hampton 18:43 Coxless fours: Open: Leander III 18 06. Senior I: Imperial College/Queens Tower 1 18.36 Senior II: Isis IV 18 50 Coxed fours: Leander IV 18.29. Senior I: Goldie IV 19 14 Senior II: Isis V 18.39. Senior III: Academic, Granta (Cambridge) III 18.28. Senior III club: Star Club V 20 07 Veteran: Wallingford/City of Oxford 19.10 Women: Quad sculls: Open: Marlow/Thames I 18.59 Senior II: Marlow IV 18.25. Coxless fours: Open: Marlow/Thames II 19.37 Coxed fours: Open: Queens Tower/Marlow 18.59 Senior II: University of London Women's BC III 19.51 Senior III: Academic: Oxford University women's BC III 21.41 Senior III club: Thames IX 21.23

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lincoln international match

Great Britain 23 New Zealand 23
Great Britain: Tries: Long, Robinson, Smith. Goals: Farrell 5. Dropped goal: Smith. New Zealand: Tries: R Paul 2, H Paul. Goals: Halligan 5 Dropped goal: Jones Att: 13,278
(at Watford)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam 50 Leigh MR 18: Beverley East Hull 4 West Hull 50; Heworth 3 Walney Central 6; Saddleworth 12 Woolston 2: Skirlaugh 40 Egremont 10: Thornhill 20 Castleford Lock Lane 20; Wigan St Patricks 8 Oldham St Annes 22 First division: Barrow Island 76 Rochdale Mayfield 4; Dudley Hill 30 Millom 6; Leigh East 20 Moldgreen 23: Milford 35 Shaw Cross 34. Oulton 22 Featherstone Lions 14; Redhill 21 East Leeds 4; Siddal 22 Wigan St Judes 16. Second division: Blackbrook 40 Eastmoor 12 Eccles 78 New Earswick 4; Ideal Isberg 19 London Skolars 12; Normanton 18 Hull Dockers 16, Ovenden 12 Dodworth 16, York Acorn 26 Keighley Alb 5. Postponed: Crosfields v Dewsbury Moor

SQUASH

STUTTGART: Women's World team championships: Semi-finals: Australia 3 South Africa 0 (Australia names first: 8 Fitz-Gerald bt C Nitch 9-0, 9-5, 9-4. M Martin bt N Grainger 9-6, 4-9, 9-5, 9-7. C Owens bt A Clifton-Parks 9-1, 9-2), England 2 New Zealand 1 (England names first: L Charman bt P Beams 9-5, 9-3, 9-2. S Wright lost to L Joyce 6-9, 5-9, 8-10; J Martin bt S Cook 9-6, 9-1, 9-4) Final: Australia 3 England 0 (M Martin bt S Wright 9-3, 3-8, 9-10, 9-2, 9-5, C Owens bt J Martin 9-4, 9-7, 9-1; S Fitz-Gerald bt S Horner 9-6, 9-4). Third-place play-off: New Zealand 2 South Africa 1 (L Joyce bt N Grainger 8-10, 9-2, 9-1. 9-1, S Cook bt A Clifton-Parks 9-8, 9-4, 10-9; P Beams lost to C Nitch 2-9, 0-9). Fifth-place play-offs: Germany 2 Egypt 1, Holland 3 France 0: Germany 2 Holland 1; France 2 Egypt 1. Ninth-place play-offs: United States 2 Belgium 1, Canada 2 Scotland 1; United States 2 Canada 1; Belgium 2 Scotland 1. Thirteenth-place play-offs: Switzerland 3 Sweden 0, Ireland 2 Spain 1; Switzerland 2 Ireland 1, Spain 3 Sweden 0 Seventeenth-place play-offs: Nigeria 2 Austria 1, Denmark 3 Hong Kong 0. Denmark 3 Colombia 0; Hong Kong 3 Austria 0: Austria 3 Colombia 0, Hong Kong 2 Nigeria 1. Final positions: 1, Australia. 2, England, 3, New Zealand; 4, South Africa, 5, Germany; 6, Holland; 7, France, 8, Egypt; 9, United States; 10, Canada: 11, Belgium, 12, Scotland, 13, Switzerland. 14, Ireland, 15, Spain, 16, Sweden; 17, Denmark, 18, Hong Kong; 18, Nigeria; 20, Austria; 21, Colombia.

SWIMMING

WOLVERHAMPTON: Speedo British Grand Prix: Men: Freestyle: 100m: 1, J Hickman (City of Leeds) 50 51, 2, S Brinn (University of Bath) 50.78; 3, M Kidd (Leatherhead) 51.41. 200m: 1, A Clayton (University of Bath) 1min 51.20sec; 2, G Hudson (Portsmouth Northsea) 1:51.80, 3, M Racher (City of Leeds) 1:52.20 400m: 1, Hudson 3:52 18. 2, I Wilson (City of Leeds), 3:53 05; 3, A Faulkner (Nova Centurion), 3:56.95. Backstroke: 100m: 1, N Willey (University of Bath) 56 71: 2. A Ruckwood (City of Birmingham) 56.96; 3, D Smith (University of Loughborough) 58 35. 200m: 1, Ruckwood 2:00 14, 2, Smith 2:03 12; 3, 3 Millus (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:03.15. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, N Poole (Portsmouth Northsea) 28 38. 2, G Brettell (University of Bath) 29.56, 3, R Maden (University of Bath) 29 58. 200m: 1, B Seddon (Rotherham Metro) 2:21.83, 2, M Earp (Nova Centurion) 2:22 60; 3, A Sharpe (Nova Centurion) 2:22.86. Butterfly: 50m: 1, M Jones (Ealing) 25 34; 2. D Bennett (Beckenham) 25 54, 3, 3 Chappels (Ferndown) 26.23. 200m: 1, C Jones (City of Newcastle) 2:03.98; 2, D Wigg (City of Newcastle) 2:04.02. 3, D Bennett (Beckenham) 2:07 15. Medley: 100m: 1, J Hickman (City of Leeds) 58.32. 2, N Poole (Portsmouth Northsea) 58.01, 3, M Kidd (Leatherhead) 59.23. 200m: 1, J Harris (Greenwich Borough Mariners) 2:05 84; 2, M Racher (City of Leeds) 2:06 06. 3, T Archer (Nova Centurion) 2:07 46. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, S Ralph (City of Newcastle) 26.18. 2, 3 Hopkins (City of Chester) 26.71. 3, M Marshall (South Lincolnshire) 26 82. 100m: 1, C Huddart (City of Leeds) 56.88; 2, K Legg (Ferndown) 57.51; 3, Marshall 57.70 400m: 1, K Legg (Ferndown) 4 13.01; 2, M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea) 4 15 29, 3, K Nisbet (City of Leeds) 4 18.06. 800m: 1, R Cooke (Reading) 8:40.35; 2, Pedder 8 41 61; 3, S Collings (University of Bath) 8:52.45 Backstroke: 50m: 1, K Sexton (Portsmouth Northsea) 30.22. 2, M Marshall (South Lincolnshire) 30.29. 3, K Jiggins (City of Coventry) 30 40 200m: 1, Sexton 2 14 72: 2, Jiggins 2:15 46: 3, S Nesbit (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:17 43. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, J Mullins (Orpington Otters) 1:11.16; 2, H Earp (Newcastle St) 1.11.17; 3, J King (University of Bath) 1.11.26. 200m: 1. Earp 2:30.26, 2, L Hindmarsh (City of Leeds) 2:30 87; 3. King 2:34.14 Butterfly: 50m: 1, 6 Ralph (City of Newcastle) 28.39; 2, R Brett (University of Loughborough) 28.62; 3, C Foot (York City Baths) 29 01. 100m: 1, Brett 1:02.58; 2, M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea) 1:03.38, 3, G Lee (Camphill Edwardians) 1:03 44 Medley: 400m: 1, R Comer (Wigan Wasps) 4 50 83. 2, H Fox (Portsmouth Northsea) 4:52.96; 3, S Heyes (Wigan Wasps) 4 52.99

TENNIS

STOCKHOLM: Skandia Open: Semi-finals: T Martin (US) bt T Henman (GB) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; T Johansson (Swe) bt G Rusedski (GB) 7-5, 7-6. Final: Martin bt Johansson 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
MOSCOW: Kremlin Cup: Semi-finals: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt M Rosset (Switz) 8-1, 2-0, ret; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt A Clement (Fr) 7-5, 6-2. Final: Kafelnikov bt Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-6.
SANTIAGO, Chile: Chevrolet Cup: Quarter-finals: J A Marin (Sp) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, F Mantilla (Sp) bt J Courier (US) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, F Clavet (Sp) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 6-4, 6-4; Y El Aynaoui (Mor) bt M Puerta (Arg) 6-2, 1-0, ret. Semi-finals: El Aynaoui bt Mantilla 6-4. 6-4, Clavet bt Marin 6-2, 7-5. Final: Clavet bt El Aynaoui 6-2, 6-4.
SHEFFIELD: Girobank Tour: Finals: Men: N Weal (Hampshire) bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-3, 6-2. Women: H Reesby (Notts) bt C Seal (Leics) 7-5, 8-2.
HULL: LTA Challenger: Final: 8 Schwartz (Austria) bt F Lubani (It) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2
ZAGREB: Croatian Seniors Classic: Group A: J McEnroe (US) bt 6 Borg (Swe) 6-7, 6-4, 10-3; M Wilander (Swe) bt M Bahrami (Iran) 5-7, 6-4, 10-6 Group B: G Forget (Fr) bt G Vilas (Arg) 6-2, 6-3. H Leconte (Fr) bt G Prpic (Cro) 7-6, 7-5.

VOLLEYBALL

MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A (in Fukuoka): Spain bt Egypt 3-2 (9-15, 13-15, 15-9, 15-1, 16-14); Japan bt South Korea 3-0 (15-8, 15-12, 15-2) Group B (in Kobe). Canada bt Thailand 3-0 (15-3, 15-7, 15-11); Italy bt United States 3-1 (15-4, 15-11, 12-15, 15-7) Group C (in Sendai): Ukraine bt Czech Republic 3-0 (15-5, 15-6, 15-6), Holland bt China 3-1 (9-15, 15-11, 15-7, 15-9) Group D (in Sapporo): Poland bt Iran 3-0 (15-5, 15-2, 15-8). Cuba bt Argentina 3-0 (15-7. 15-8, 15-9) Group E (in Kawasaki) Greece bt Algeria 3-1 (15-6, 15-11, 13-15, 15-12); Brazil bt Bulgaria 3-0 (15-4, 15-8, 15-8). Group F (in Uozu): Australia bt Turkey 3-2 (15-8, 9-15, 9-15, 15-13, 15-10); Yugoslavia bt Russia 3-2 (14-16, 14-16, 15-8, 15-12, 18-14).

ATHLETICS

Cross country

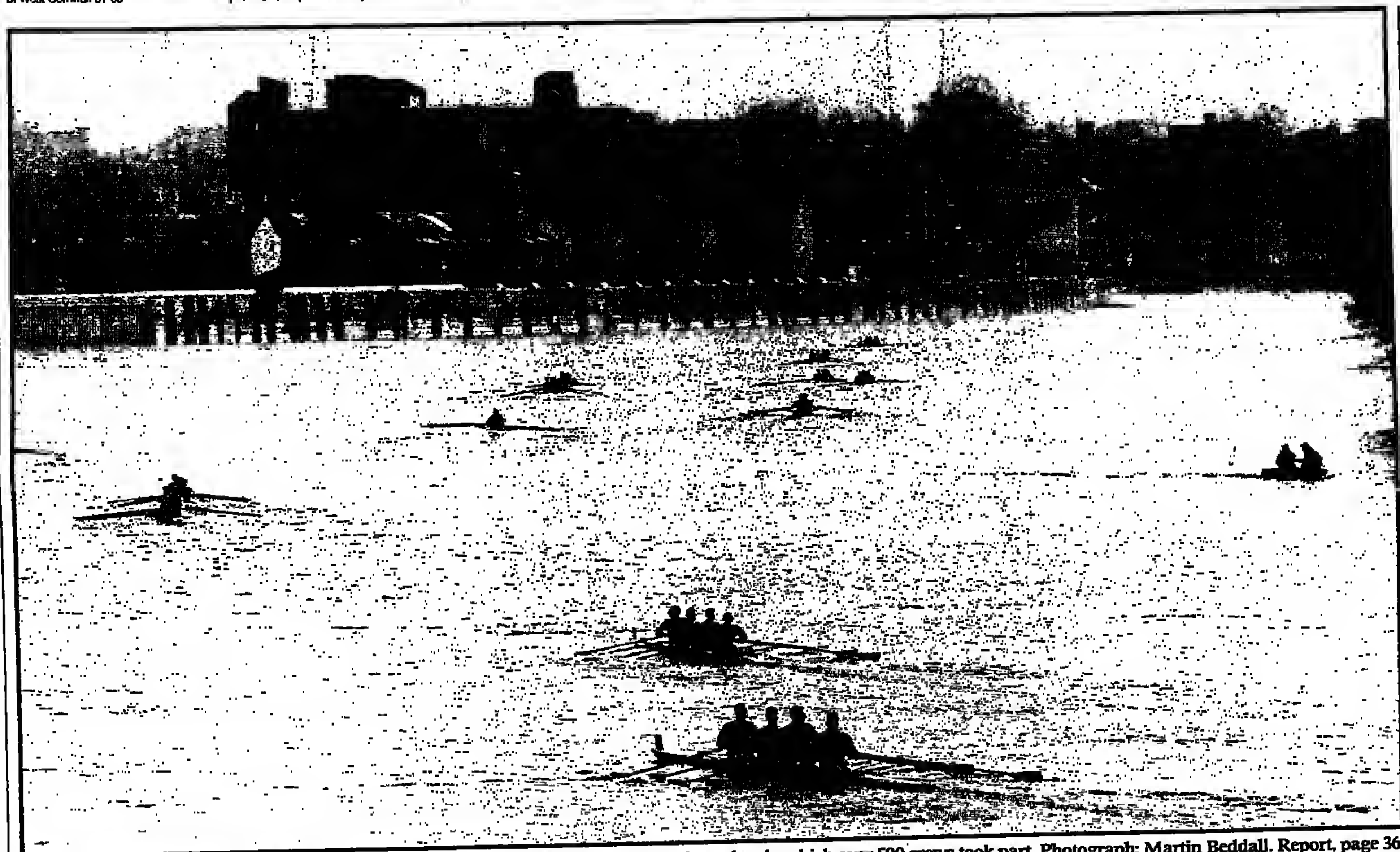
METZ, France: Lorraine Republic race: Men (9.2km), 1, W Kalya (Ken) 28min 46sec, 2, E Konr (Ken) 28.48, 3, G Gebremarian (Eth) 28:52. Women (4.12km): 1, B Omwansa (Ken) 13min 40sec, 2, M Mariousseva (Russ) 13:49; 3, N Omwenga (Ken) 13.53
BERRY HILL, Mansfield: View From national relay championships: Senior men (4 x 5km) 1, Birchfield 1hr 1min 57sec, 2, Shaftesbury Barnet 1:02:21; 3, Salford 1 02:44; 4, Morpeth 1 03:07; 5, London Irish 1:03.21, 6, Bingley (holders) 1:03 35. Fastest laps: 1, R Whalley (City of Stoke) 15:11, 2, R Birchall (Birchfield) 15:13 Senior women (3 x 3km) 1, Shaftesbury Barnet 31:46, 2, Sale Harriers Manchester 31:53, 3, Hounslow 32:29; 4, Birchfield (holders) 32:50, 5, Charnwood 33:03; 6, Derby Ladies 33:05. Fastest laps: 1, A Joiner (Shaftesbury Barnet) 10:20; 2, L Elliott (Shaftesbury Barnet) 10:21, 3, H Yelling (Hounslow) 10:23 Junior men (4 x 3km) 1, Sunderland 39.23; 2, Hounslow 39:33; 3, Windsor, Slough & Eton 39:56. Fastest lap: M Farah (Hounslow) 9:08 Junior women (3 x 2.5km): 1, Ipswich 27:58; 2, City of Stoke 28:30, 3, Aldershot, Farnham & District 28:46, Fastest lap: E Ward (City of Stoke) 8:58 Under-17 women (3 x 2.5km): 1, Charnwood 28:41, 2, Coventry Godiva 29:40; 3, Shipton 30:06 Fastest lap: S Crosey (Bedford) 9:05 Under-15 boys: 1, Derby & County 26:33, 2, Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton 27:06, 3, Cannock & Stafford 27:40. Fastest lap: C Hawkins (Derby & County) and A Ablitt (Grantham) 6:20 Under-15 girls (3 x 2km): 1, Aldershot, Farnham & District 23:06, 2, Bedford 23:08, 3, Medway 23:25, Fastest lap: L Boon (Aldershot, Farnham & District) 7 14 Under-13 boys (4 x 2km): 1, Bristol 29 32, 2, Solihull & Small Heath 29:34, 3, Aldershot, Farnham & District 29:43 Fastest lap: S Hall (Shaftesbury Barnet) 7:00. Under-13 girls (3 x 2km) 1, Milton Keynes 23.23; 2, Aldershot, Farnham & District 23:48; 3, Solihull & Small Heath 23:51 Fastest lap: E Hunt (Milton Keynes) 7:36
ALEXANDRA PALACE: North London championships: Men (5 miles). A Arrand (Barnet) 27min 5sec. 2, A van Zyl (Shaftesbury Barnet) 27 26, 3, E Southam (Highgate) 27:30 Teams: 1, Barnet 94pts. 2, Highgate 107; 3, Muswell Hill Runners 123, 4, Hillingdon 219, 5, Ealing, Southall & Middlesex 259 Veteran: G Staunton (London Irish) Women (6km) 1, A Chapman (Highgate) 25:03. 2, J Jennick (Highgate) 25:13; 3, N Ashe (Puma TVH) 25.34 Teams: 1, Highgate 19. 2, Puma TVH 31, 3, Shaftesbury Barnet 42
BECKENHAM: South of the Thames 5 miles championship: 1, J Lobo (Belgrave) 32min 25sec. 2, P Coughlan (Belgrave) 33 17, 3, G Kelpacz (City of Portsmouth) 33.21 Teams: 1, Crawley 43pts. 2, Belgrave 44; 3, Blackheath 48, 4, City of Portsmouth 62 5, Tonbridge 91 6, Reading 123 Eight-to-score: Belgrave 250, 2 Crawley 258. 3, City of Portsmouth 353
BROCKWELL PARK: Women's Surrey League: First division: 1, R Disley (Thames) 22min 36sec. 2, C Mckinlay-Evans (South London Harriers) 22:38. 3. A Solly (West 4 Harriers) 22 45 Teams: 1, Herne Hill 53pts. 2, South London Harriers 80 3, Dulwich Runners 93 Second division: 1, S Cook (Guildford & Godalming) 22:15 2, M Statham (Holland Sports) 22 37, 3, S Blackett (Dulwich Park Runners) 23:18 Teams: 1, Belgrave 82. 2, Dulwich Park Runners 111. 3, Tadworth 151
BALLYCLARE: McConnell Shield: Men (5 miles) 1 S Burton (Sparta North West) 27min 26sec. 2, F Feeney (North Sligo) 27 50; 3, J Davey (Willowfield) 28:18 Teams: 1, Willowfield 54pts. 2, Sparta North West 144. 3, North Belfast 177 Veteran: W Mitchell (Albertville) 28:24 Women (2 miles): 1, P Thom (Ballymena & Antrim) 12 14; 2, S Hatch (Sparta North West) 12.15 3, C Long (Albertville) 13:12 Veteran: S Patrick (Albertville) 13 21

Road running

TOKYO: Women's marathon (Japan unless stated) 1 J Asari 2hr 28min 29sec. 2, A Ichihara 2:28.29, 3, A Miyazaki 2:30 06. 4, I Goto 2 31.26. 5 K Dorre-Heinig (Ger) 2:31.44. 6, M Kondo 2:32:21. 7, C Tanaka 2 35 45 8, F Roba (Eth) 2 36.22 9, T Hirose 2:37:17 10 E Yamazaki 2:39 34
CROMFORD MILL: North Face high peak ten-stage stage relay: (35 miles) 1, Hallamshire 3hr 15min 36sec. 2, Matlock 3 18:37. 4 North 3.18:07. 3, Mansfield 3 18 58 5, Mansfield Veterans Derbyshire 3 26:27 6, Hatton Darts 3.29 14 Women: Hallamshire 4.13 56
BATH: Victoria Park 4 miles: Men 1 J Emery (Westbury) 19min 41sec 2, N Rose (Bristol) 19 50 3, M O'Doherty (Westbury) Veteran over-50: D Cordwell (Bristol) 19 54 Over-60: A Hickson (Avon Valley) 22 47 Over-65: A Hurst (Somer Runners) 27 41 Women: 1, V Pincombe (Minehead) 20 26 2, Z Marchant (City of Bath) 23 58 3 D Howard (Unattached) 24 15
DARTMOUTH: Devon Series 3km Men: 1 C Morris (Exeter University) 9min 28sec 2 A Chudley (South West Road Runners) 9.30 3 D Carthy (City of Plymouth) 9 40. Veteran: D Donaghy (Exmouth) 9:46 Over-50: C Filar (Dartmouth) 11 22 Over-60: T Hair (South Devon) 11:14 Women: 1 H Collins (Exeter Harriers) 12:18 2, B Fowler (Exeter University) 12:24: 3 J Parton (South Devon) 12:43 Veteran over-50: D Roudley (Exmouth) 13 52
WESTMINSTER: Lensbury Bridges 2.3 miles: Men: 1 J Rye (Thames Hare & Hounds) 12min 9sec 2, R Jacobs (Herne Hill) 13 08, 3, D Gray (Maidstone) 13:15 Women: A Hebbard (British Telecom) 16:00

Fell running

BARLEY VILLAGE, Lancashire: Tour of Pendle (17M, 4250ft) Men 1 A Jebb (Bingley) 2hr 15min 26sec. 2, M Horrocks (Clayton-le-Moors) 2 16 55 3 P Thompson (Unattached) 2 19 08 4, M Palmer (Forest of Dean) 2 20 15 5, J Logue (Horwich) 2 24 54 6 M Wallis (Clayton-le-Moors M40) 2 25 35 Over-50: T Hesketh (Horwich) 2 32 07 Over-60. R Jaques (Clayton-le-Moors) 3 04 10 Team: 1, Clayton-le-Moors 32pts. 2, Horwich 45 3, Bowland 64 Women: 1, V Peacock (Clayton-le-Moors W45 51st) 2 54 09 2, ... Thompson 3 20 25 3, C Lyle (Clayton-le-Moors W45) 3 24 20 Over-60: L Lord (Clayton-le-Moors) 3 38 57 Team: Clayton-le-Moors 6pts



Craven Cottage looms over boats in the Head of the River Fours race at Putney on Saturday, in which over 500 crews took part. Photograph: Martin Beddall. Report, page 36

SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL: Heinz Ketchup Trophy: Second round: North Somerset 4 Bridgewater 1. Third round: Gateshead 2 Redcar and Cleveland 1; Hambleton and Richmond 2 West Tyne 0; Kirby 3 Sefton 0; Salford 1 Manchester 2; Darlington 0 Newcastle 5; North Leicestershire 2 Cannock 1; Halesowen and Stourbridge 0 Erdington and Saltley 0; Mansfield 3 Bromsgrove and Droitwich 4; Mid and South Warwickshire 0 South Notts 3; Woking 1 Mid Hertfordshire 4; South East Sussex 0 Lea Valley 4; Brighton 2 Worthing 1; Poole 2 Yeovil 2; Swindon 1 Reading 2. Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Cleveland 2 North Yorkshire 1; Merseyside 0 Cheshire 0; Cumbria 2 South Yorkshire 7. Under-18: Cleveland 2 North Yorkshire 1; Cumbria 0 South Yorkshire 3. Yorkshire Trophy: Middlesborough 5 Spen Valley 2, Northern Merit League: Huddersfield 5 Blackburn 3, West Midlands League: Burton 0 Solihull 2. Wright Cup: First round: Havant 1 Aldershot 2. Inter-association matches: Doncaster 3 Sheffield 0; Carlisle 5 West Tyne 3 Hartlepool Hospital Cup (under-14), Darlington 1 Stockton 5; East Durham 1 Bishop Auckland 2. Midlands Divisional Cup: Second round (under-14), Walsall 0 Telford 1. Inter-county matches: Under-16: Norfolk 2 Bedfordshire 2. Under-15: Norfolk 1 Bedfordshire 3 Under-14: Norfolk 1 Bedfordshire 2. Simmons Plate: First round: Nottingham 7 West Lindsey 0. Coleville 7 Worksop 5. Alcock cup: Tameside 2 Stockport 2. N W Woodward Trophy: First round: South Cheshire 5 Rossendale 4. Other match: Hampton 3 Kimbolton 0

RUGBY UNION: KCS Wimbledon 13 Cranleigh 13; Loughborough GS 12 Cheltenham College 20, Abingdon 10 Pangbourne 25, Bablake 41 King Henry VII 0; Blundells 15 Skinners 7; Bradford GS 34 RGS Newcastle 3; Bryanston 32 Sherborne 10; Caterham 10 Christ's Hospital 20; Canford 70 Bishop Wordsworth 12; Christ's, Brecon 60 King's, Taunton 0; Clifton 26 Marlborough 18; Dean Close 19 Bristol GS 28, Exeter 24 Truro 33; Hymers 14 Ampleforth 11, John Cleveland 34 Denstone 8; Judd 3 Campion 13, King's, Canterbury 12 Tonbridge 12, King's, Worcester 14 Bromsgrove 15, King Edward's, Bath 15 King's, Bruton 3, King Edward VII, Lytham 23 Hutton 0; Lancaster RGS 53 Leeds GS 0; Loretto 0 Fettes 8; Loughborough 12 Cheltenham 20; Merchant Taylors', Crosby 46 Arnold 10; Monkton Combe 41 Clayesmore 0; Monmouth 0 Millfield 35; Mount St Mary's 59 Worksop 7; Oakham 33 The Leys 3; Portsmouth GS 5 Reading 8; Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 15 Merchant Taylors', Northwood 12; Radley 5 Wellington, Berkshire 15; Reigate GS 38 RGS Guildford 3; Rossall 20 Liverpool Coll 0; St Bees 10 Giggleswick 10; St Dunstan's 17 Chislehurst & Sidcup 10; St Edward's, Oxford 81 Bedford 5; St George's, Weybridge 3 Lord Wandsworth 18; St Ignatius 7 Tring 27; St John's, Leatherhead 30 Eastbourne 3; St Joseph's, Ipswich 32 Framlingham 3; St Paul's 7 Eltham 10; Sedbergh 17 Stonyhurst 24, Sevenoaks 17 Epsom 31; Stamford 5 Uppingham 22; Stowe 22 Mill Hill 12; Sutton Valence 11 King's, Rochester 12; Taunton 17 Downside 29; Tiffin 12 Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree 7; Trent 24 Nottingham HS 0; Watford GS 15 Hitchin 7; Wellington, Somerset 19 Prior Park 11; West Buckland 34 Shebbear 5; Whitgift 12 Dulwich 8, Woodhouse Grove 5 Stockport GS 0; London Oratory 22 Trinity School, Croydon 0 Daily Mail under-18 Cup: St Peter's School, York 10 Durham 10 (Durham win on try countback).

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Scottish Eagles 4 Manchester Storm 3, London Knights 3 Bracknell Bees 4; Nottingham Panthers 4 Newcastle Riverkings 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Dallas 5 Detroit 1; New Jersey 4 Pittsburgh 3; Boston 3 New York Rangers 3 (OT), Colorado 8 Tampa Bay 1, Vancouver 5 Anaheim 2. Saturday: Boston 1 Dallas 3, Montreal 1 Edmonton 4, New York Islanders 3 Washington 5; Toronto 2 Ottawa 1; Buffalo 8 Chicago 1, Philadelphia 8 New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 4 Florida 0; St Louis 5 Nashville 1; Phoenix 4 Tampa Bay 1, Calgary 0 Anaheim 1, Los Angeles 3 Carolina 5

Eastern Conference

Northeast division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Toronto	8	6	2	58	50	20
Buffalo	7	3	4	40	26	18
Boston	6	7	4	40	32	16
Ottawa	6	6	2	41	39	14
Montreal	6	8	2	35	44	14
Atlantic division						
New Jersey	8	6	0	33	35	18
Pittsburgh	7	4	4	42	38	18
NY Islanders	8	8	0	43	43	16
Philadelphia	6	6	4	41	36	16
NY Rangers	4	7	5	36	45	13
Southeast division						
Carolina	7	7	3	43	40	17
Florida	6	6	3	33	41	15
Tampa Bay	6	8	2	40	61	14
Washington	5	7	3	33	40	13

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
St Louis	7	4	4	42	35	18
Detroit	8	7	0	44	37	16
Nashville	6	8	1	38	45	13
Chicago	4	10	2	34	60	10
Northwest division						
Edmonton	8	6	1	53	39	18
Vancouver	8	8	1	49	39	17
Calgary	6	8	2	42	45	14
Colorado	5	8	2	41	46	12
Pacific division						
Dallas	8	3	2	37	27	20
Phoenix	8	2	2	34	17	18
Anaheim	5	6	4	34	36	14
Los Angeles	5	8	3	38	46	13
San Jose	3	7	4	33	35	10

GOLF

GOTEMBA, Japan: Taiheiyo Masters: Leading final scores (Japan unless stated) 275: L Westwood (GB) 72, 67, 67, 69. 277: M Ozaki 69, 72, 69, 67. 278: F E Herrera (Col) 65, 74, 68, 71. 279: F Minoza (Phil) 68, 70, 67, 74. 280: H Fujita 73 70, 69, 68; T Ozaki 68, 70, 71, 71. 281: R Goosen (SA) 70, 74, 67, 70; H Meshiai 71, 71, 65, 74 282: R Kawagishi 67, 72, 73, 70; S Higaki 71, 70, 71, 70: S Ginn (Aus) 74, 71, 68, 71; T Taniguchi 72, 69, 66, 75. 283: N Ozaki 72, 73, 70, 68: E Mizoguchi 71, 71, 73, 68; A Coltart (GB) 69, 72, 72, 70 284: D Howell (GB) 70, 73, 73, 68. J M Olazábal (Sp) 72, 73, 70, 69: T Teshima 74, 71, 68, 71; K Kuwabara 71, 70, 71, 72: D Clarke (GB) 71, 71, 70, 72. N Serizawa 67, 68, 75, 74
THOUSAND OAKS, California: Shark Shootout: Scores after two rounds: 130: D Love III and B Faxon (US) 68, 62. 131: T Kite and B Maylair (US) 68, 62. G Norman and S Elkington (Aus) 67, 64; B Andrade and J Haas (US) 68, 63; J Daly and F Zoeller (US) 65, 66; C Rocca and S Hoch (It, US) 66, 65 134: B Lietzke and S McCarron (US) 72, 62. F Couples and J Leonard (US) 69, 65; P Jacobsen and J Cook (US) 68, 66 136: B Crenshaw and C Stadler (US) 70, 66; H Sutton and G Day (US) 68, 68.
SHENZHEN, China: Johnnie Walker Super Tour: Final scores: 269: V Singh (Fiji) 70, 68, 71, 62. 271: E Els (SA) 70, 68, 67, 68 276: J Parnevik (Swe) 68, 70, 71, 69. 279: B Watts (US) 70, 69, 71, 69. 282: P Marksaeng (Thai) 68, 71, 69, 71. 285: C Tse-peng (Taiwan) 65, 73, 72, 74. 287: M Ramayah (Malaysia) 69, 71, 71, 76 291: F Casas (Phil) 71, 71, 75, 76 308: L Davies (Eng) 79, 78, 73, 78.
BANGKOK: Thailand Open: Leading final scores: 272: J Kingston (SA) 69, 64, 69, 70; J M Singh (India) 69, 67, 70, 66. 273: C Kamps (SA) 67, 71, 69, 66. 274: J Randhawa (India) 65, 66, 73, 70; B Ruangkit (Thai) 68, 67, 68, 71. 275: T Jaidee (Thai) 67, 70, 69, 69; S Yates (Scot) 69, 66, 70, 70. 276: A Atwal (India) 74, 65, 70, 67. 277: A Singh (India) 71, 68, 69, 69. 278: R Brobio (Phil) 69, 69, 69, 71. 279: D Boutel (HK) 70, 79, 72, 68; S Rowe (HK) 68, 70, 73, 68. 281: T Inoue (Japan) 74, 72, 69, 66; T Hussain (Pak) 73, 65, 74, 69; K Walker (Scot) 69, 67, 72, 73.
PRAIA D'EL REY, Portugal: European Cup: Saturday: Fourballs: Men's Senior Tour 4½ European LPGA ½ (Men's Senior Tour names first, Great Britain and Ireland unless stated: E Polland and D Jones bt S Gustafson (Swe) and C Nilsmark (Swe) one hole; D O'Sullivan and B Verwey halved with K Lunn and T Johnson; N Coles and J Rhodes bt L Fairclough and M Hjorth (Swe) 4 and 3; B Waites and B Huggett bt M L de Lorenzi (Fr) and A Nicholas one hole; C O'Connor Jnr and T Horton bt C Matthew and M McKay 4 and 3). Yesterday: Singles: Men's Senior Tour 3½ European LPGA 6½ (Men's Senior Tour names first: O'Sullivan lost to Gustafson 4 and 3; Waites lost to Johnson 2 and 1; Verwey lost to Matthew 4 and 2: Rhodes lost to Lunn 3 and 2; Huggett halved with Nilsmark, Coles bt Nicholas 2 and 1; Jones bt Fairclough 2 and 1; Polland lost to Hjorth 5 and 4; O'Connor Jnr bt McKay 5 and 4; Horton lost to De Lorenzi 4 and 2). Overall score: Men's Senior Tour 10 European LPGA 10.
MELBOURNE: LPGA Australian Open: Leading final scores (Australia unless stated): 280: M McGuire (NZ) 72, 72, 69, 67. 284: K Robbins (US) 75, 74, 65, 70. 287: J Crafter 79, 71, 70, 67. 289: K Webb 78, 70, 70, 71. 290: L Neumann (Swe) 73, 74, 69, 74. 292: J Stephenson 74, 72, 72, 74; L Philo (US) 75, 74, 75, 68; M Lunn 76, 73, 70, 73. 294: T Fischer (Ger) 79, 71, 73, 71. 295: C Kerr (US) 74, 78, 77, 68. Other scores: 298: C Duffy (GB) 79, 71, 75, 73; M-J Rouleau (Can) 75, 73, 74, 76; Soo Yun Kang (S Kor) 78, 79, 67, 74 300: Kim Young (S Kor) 84, 74, 68, 74; Ji Hyun Suh (S Kor) 78, 77, 74, 73. 303: Mi Hyuang Kim (S Kor) 79, 78, 76, 70. 304: Siew-Ai Lim (Malaysia) 72, 81, 75, 76. 305: Joung Youn Lee (S Kor) 74, 75, 79, 77. 307: J Crowe (GB) 76, 74, 81, 76. 308: D Reid (GB) 79, 79, 79, 71; S Bennett (GB) 75, 81, 74, 78; L Earley (Can) 80, 75, 74, 79. 310: Hee Joung Kim (S Kor) 77, 79, 75, 79. 312: Jung Sook Nam (S Kor) 75, 79, 80, 78; You Jin Park (S Kor) 83, 73, 77, 79.
PALM DESERT, California: Senior Match Play Challenge: Second round (all United States): H Irwin bt B Summerhays 2 and 1; G Morgan bt D Quigley 3 and 2; B Charles bt J Colbert 2 and 1; D Graham bt J Sigel 2 and 1.
CHONAN, Japan: Itoen Ladies tournament: Leading final scores (Japan unless stated): 197: M Hattori 65, 66, 66. 208: K Higo 71, 67, 70, Ku Ok-hee (S Kor) 71, 63, 74 210: Han Hee-won (S Kor) 69, 72, 69; K Harada 72, 68, 70; Y Fudo 72, 67, 71, F Muraguchi 68, 69, 72. 211: T Bando 69, 70, 72. 212: A Fukushima 70, 68, 74. 214: Y Inoue 74, 72, 68; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 74, 71; Kim Ae-sook (S Kor) 75, 67, 72

RUGBY UNION

World Cup

European qualifying zone

Pool one

Ireland 70 Georgia 0
Ireland: Tries: Dempsey 2, Bell, Costello, Duignan, Johns, Maggs, O'Shea, Scally, P Wallace Cons: Elwood 10
(at Lansdowne Road)

Pool two

England 110 Netherlands 0
England: Tries: Back 4, Guscott 4, Beal, Cockerill, Corry, Dawson, Greenwood, Healey, Luger, penalty try Cons: Grayson 15
(at Huddersfield)

International match

Wales 20 South Africa 28
Wales: Try: G Thomas Pens: N Jenkins 5 South Africa: Tries, Penalty try, Van der Westhuizen, Venter Cons: Smith 2 Pens: Smith 3 Att: 55,000
(at Wembley)

Tour match

Scotland XV 8 NZ Maoris 24
Scotland XV: Try: Lee. Pen: Lee New Zealand Maoris: Tries: Cashmore, Marsh Con: Cashmore Pens: Cashmore 4 Att: 35,000
(at Murrayfield)

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bedford 20 Saracens 25
Bedford: Tries. Faramore, Underwood Cons: Howard 2 Pens: Howard 2 Saracens: Tries: Coker, De Jonge, R Wallace Cons: Johnson 2 Pens: Johnson 2 Att: 5 175

London Scot 17 London Irish 23
London Scottish: Tries: Easterby, Holmes Cons. De Beer 2 Pen: De Beer London Irish: Tries: Bachop, Woods Cons: Cunningham, Woods Pens: Woods 2, Cunningham. Att: 3,000

Newcastle 45 Northampton 35
Newcastle: Tries: Wilkinson 2, Armstrong, Arnold, Tuigamala, Walton. Cons: Wilkinson 6 Pen: Wilkinson Northampton: Tries: Pagel 2 D Malone, Metcalfe. Cons: Hepher 3 Pens: Hepher 3. Att: 4,293.

Wasps 45 Leicester 17
Wasps: Tries: Leota 2, Volley 2, Logan, Roiser. Cons: Logan 3. Pens: Logan 3. Leicester: Tries: Gustard, Murphy Cons: Stransky 2. Pen: Stransky Att: 6,027.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	11	8	0	3	343	200	16
Saracens	10	7	0	3	324	218	14
Bath	10	7	0	3	291	187	14
Northampton	10	7	0	3	251	206	14
Wasps	11	6	0	5	341	241	12
Newcastle	10	6	0	4	268	235	12
Gloucester	10	6	0	4	234	211	12
Richmond	10	6	0	4	272	266	12
Harlequins	10	6	0	4	262	259	12
London Irish	10	4	0	6	244	259	8
Sale	10	4	0	6	247	308	8
Bedford	11	2	0	8	265	369	4
London Scot	8	2	0	7	152	258	4
W H'fepool	10	0	0	10	153	430	0

LEADING SCORERS: 167: J Schuster (Harlequins, 1 try, 15 conversions, 43 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 164: K Logan (Wasps; 6t, 19c, 32pg) 160: J Stransky (Leicester; 5t, 30c, 25pg). 140: N Woods (London Irish; 6t, 16c, 26pg. 136: M Catt (Bath; 1t, 22c, 29pg). 128: G Johnson (Saracens; 6t, 22c, 18pg) 119: J Wilkinson (Newcastle; 3t, 22c, 20pg), 109: S Howard (Bedford: 2t, 21c, 19pg). Tries: 9: J Guscott (Bath). 7: D Luger (Harlequins), D O'Mahony (Bedford), T Underwood (Newcastle). 6: N Beck (Leicester). 6 Daniel (Saracens), Johnson, Logan, P Volley (Wasps). Woods.

Tetley's Bitter Cup

Third round

Blackheath 21 Sedgley Park 22
Blackheath: Tries: Razak 2, Walton Pens: Aitken 2 Sedgley Park: Tries: Morris 2, Duncan Cons: Moon, Mooney. Pen: Moon.

Bracknell 13 Met Police 6
Bracknell: Try: Shaw. Con: Russell Pens: Russell 2. Met Police: Pens: Herring 2

Bristol 55 Sandal 0
Bristol: Tries: J Evans 3, Al Charron 2, Barlow, Barnard, Hull, Marsden. Cons: Hull 5. Att: 1,869

Coventry 26 Worcester 38
Coventry: Tries: Curtis, Gough, Smallwood. Con: Gough. Pens: Gough 3 Worcester: Tries: Myler 2, Denhardt, Linnett, Morris. Cons: Lyley 4 Pen: Lyley.

Esher 42 Harrogate 17
Esher: Tries: Goodwin 2, Gregory 2, Waddington, White. Cons: Gregory 3. Pens: Gregory 2. Harrogate: Tries: Farrer, Hessall, Reed. Con: Farnsworth

Exeter 81 Whitchurch 11
Exeter: Tries: Osman 3, Woodman 3, Craig 2, Armstrong, J Baxter, Doyle, Hutchinson, Webber. Cons: D Easson 8 Whitchurch: Try: Baker. Pens: Canney 2.

Hull Ionians 7 Newbury 31
Hull Ionians: Try: Jones. Con: Redford. Newbury: Tries: C Davies 3, Blake, Walder Cons: Hurst 3.

Lydney 44 Stourbridge 5
Lydney: Tries: Dunlop 2, Smith 2, Paisley, Price, Turner Cons: Paisley 3 Pen: Paisley Stourbridge: Try: Hall

Morley 36 Maidenhead 25
Morley: Tries: C Hall 2, Bamber, Bibb, Driver, L Hamilton, penalty try Cons: Bamber 2. Maidenhead: Tries: Boote, Green, penalty try. Cons: Ruddick 2. Pens: Ruddick 2

Moseley 22 Fylde 15
Moseley: Tries: Gregory, S Jones, Martin. Cons: A Binns 2. Pen: 6 Jones Fylde: Tries: Preston 2. Con: Peacock. Pen: Peacock. Att: 700.

Nottingham 27 Wharfedale 17
Nottingham: Tries: Bradley 3, Bygrave. Cons: C Atkinson 2. Pen: C Atkinson. Wharfedale: Try: Heseltine Pens: Pears 3, Hayes.

Reading 12 Orrell 23
Reading: Pens: Dance 3. Dropped goal: Lewis Orrell: Tries: Bailey, Cusani, Ryan, Verbickas. Pen: Slemon.

Rosslyn Park 12 Henley 18
Rosslyn Park: Tries: Penalty try, Springhall. Con: Cook. Henley: Try: Davies. Con: Maudsley. Pens: Maudsley 2, Roke.

Rotherham 8 London Welsh 6
Rotherham: Try: Umaga. Pen: Scully. London Welsh: Pens: Lee 2.

Rugby 7 Leeds 68
Rugby: Try: Tarbuck. Con: D Evans. Leeds: Tries: Sailor 5, Middleton 2, Tuipulotu 2, Edwards, Reid Cons: Tuipulotu 5. Pen: Tuipulotu. Att: 500.

Swanage & W 6 Barking 36
Swanage & Wareham: Pens: Graves 2 Barking: Tries: Tunnell 2, Azzopardi, Berry, Gregory Cons: Azzopardi 4 Pen: Azzopardi.

Wakefield 8 Kendal 18
Wakefield: Try: Simpson-Daniel Pen: Dixon. Kendal: Tries: Balmer 2 Pens: Mee 2

Waterloo 34 New Brighton 23
Waterloo: Tries: Beckett, Hackney, Holt, Kay, M Mullins, O'Reilly. Cons: L Griffiths 2. New Brighton: Tries: Jones, Kay, Kennedy Con: King. Pens: King 2.

Jewson League

Second division north

Walsall 10 Nuneaton 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	8	8	0	0	314	136	16
Stourbridge	8	7	0	1	217	131	14
New Brighton	8	6	0	2	196	61	12
Sheffield	8	6	0	2	196	108	12
Nuneaton	7	4	1	2	174	150	9
Sandal	8	4	0	4	189	164	8
Aspatria	8	4	0	4	183	210	8
Whitchurch	8	4	0	4	134	189	8
Sedgley Park	8	3	1	4	184	163	7
Kendal	8	3	0	5	187	118	6
Hinckley	8	2	0	6	92	178	4
Walsall	7	2	0	5	159	248	4
Winnington Pk	8	1	0	7	72	272	2
Lichfield	8	0	0	8	99	256	0

Second division south

Cheltenham 23 Bridgwater 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esher	8	7	0	1	266	96	14
N Walsham	8	6	0	2	183	89	12
Barking	8	6	0	2	160	92	12
Met Police	8	6	0	2	170	105	12
Bracknell	8	6	0	2	141	109	12
Tabard	8	5	0	3	155	114	10
Norwich	8	5	0	3	127	113	10
Plymouth	8	3	1	4	152	182	7
Weston-s-M	8	3	1	4	117	159	7
Clifton	8	2	0	6	115	146	4
Havant	8	2	0	6	92	235	4
Bridgwater	7	1	1	5	121	153	3
Redruth	8	1	1	6	94	203	3
Cheltenham	7	0	0	7	82	190	0

NORTH: First division: Stockton 23 Macclesfield 18.

Welsh League

First division

Blackwood 30 Newbridge 12
Blackwood: Tries: Vester 2, Lay, penalty try, Cons: Lay 2. Pen: Lay. Dropped goal: Grinstead Newbridge: Pens: Williams 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	10	8	0	2	321	172	48	7	31
Pontypool	11	9	0	2	254	183	31	2	29
Bonymaen	11	7	1	3	235	180	33	5	27
Cross Keys	10	7	0	3	245	157	28	3	24
Treorchy	10	6	0	4	235	142	32	5	23
Rumney	10	6	0	4	217	185	31	5	23
Merthyr	11	6	1	4	213	201	27	3	22
Newbridge	11	6	0	5	274	217	29	3	21
Llandovery	11	6	1	4	264	241	35	1	20
Abertillery	10	5	1	4	214	181	25	4	20
Blackwood	10	3	1	6	220	217	34	8	18
Tredegar	12	3	1	8	254	306	32	3	13
SW Police	10	3	1	6	168	263	24	0	10
UWIC	11	2	1	8	223	314	29	3	10
Tondu	10	2	0	8	160	267	21	1	7
Maesteg	10	1	0	9	103	384	11	0	3

Anglo-Welsh club match

Cardiff 17 Gloucester 9
Cardiff: Tries: Kacala, Morgan, Wintle Con: Burke Gloucester: Pens: Mapletoft 3.

Tennents Velvet Cup

Third round

Alloa	17	Strathmore	7
Ayr	109	Carrick	5
Biggar	47	Annan	16
Boroughmuir	117	Howe of Fife	8
Cumnock	20	Stewart's FP	14
Dalziel	12	Kirkcaldy	46
Dunfermline	8	Langholm	17
East Kilbride	28	Selkirk	18
Gala	76	Gordonians	18
Glasgow South	17	Glasgow Hawks	71
Greenock	10	Melrose	99
Haddington	18	Ross High	17
Hawick	40	Berwick	16
Hawick Linden	7	Edinburgh	17
Heriot's FP	78	Glenrothes	11
Hillhead/J'hill	13	St Boswells	6
Hutchesons' Al	72	Allan Glen's	0
Irvine	8	Stewartry	21
Jed-Forest	25	Preston Lodge	27
Kelso	78	Lenzie	5
Kilmarnock	109	Hyndland FP	0
Linlithgow	15	Stirling County	8
Morgan FP	20	Ellon	8
Murrayfield	43	Cartha QP	12
Musselburgh	P	Grangemouth	P
Peebles	50	Livingston	5
Perthshire	47	Royal Dick VC	3
Portobello FP	0	Currie	64
Strathaven	12	Watsonians	64
Trinity Acads	7	Dundee HSFP	60
W'sidera/D'peille	6	Aberdeen GSFP	31
W Scotland	53	Cambuslang	10

International matches

France 34 Argentina 14
France: Tries: Glas 2, Carbonneau, Bernat-Salles, Comba. Pen: Aucagne Cons: Aucagne 3. Argentina: Try: Camerlinckx. Pens: Arbizu 3.
(in Nantes)

France A 6 Australia 24
France A: Pens: Dourthe 3. Australia: Tries: Little, Herbert, Gregan. Cons: Eales 3. Pen: Eales.
(in Villeneuve d'Ascq)

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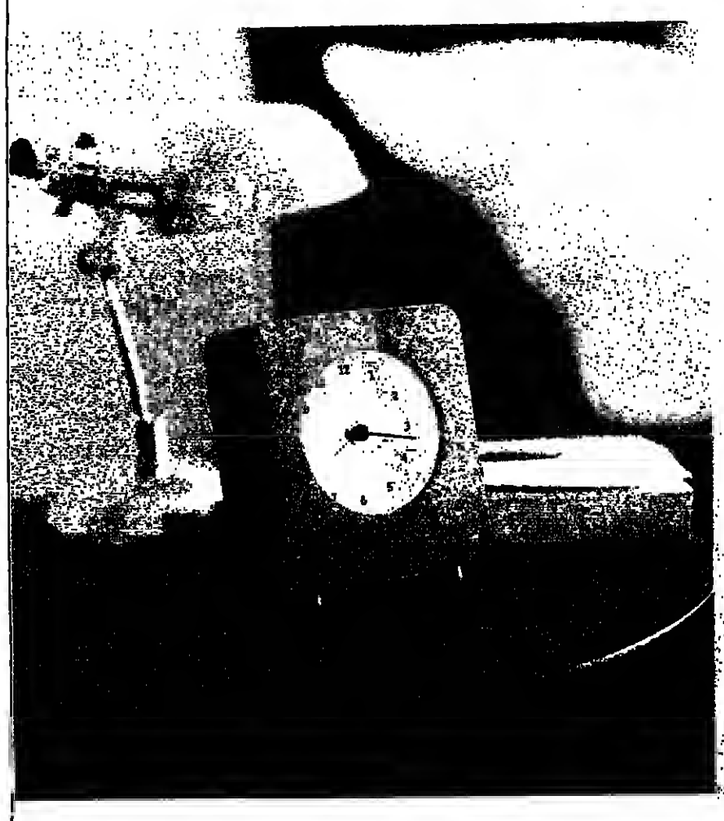

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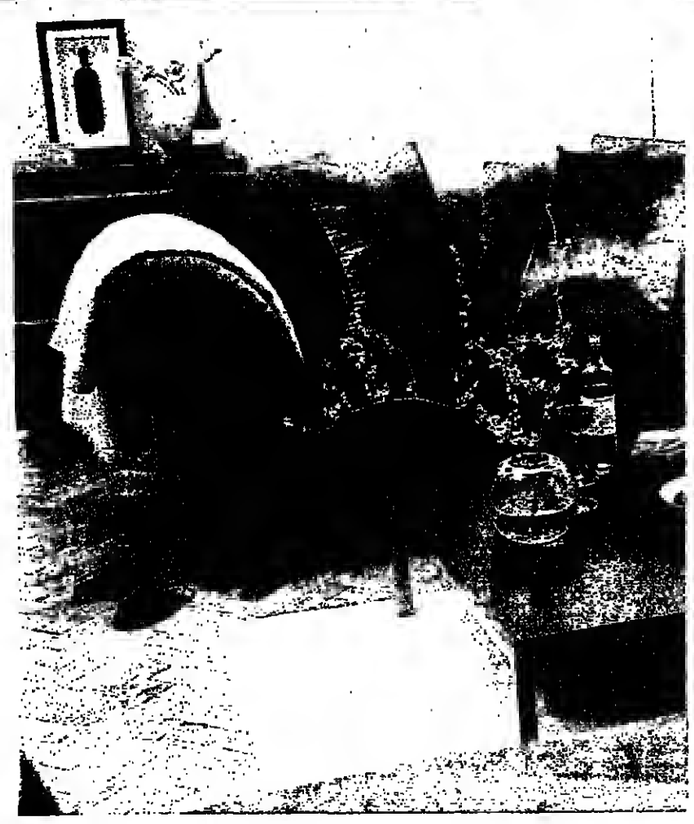

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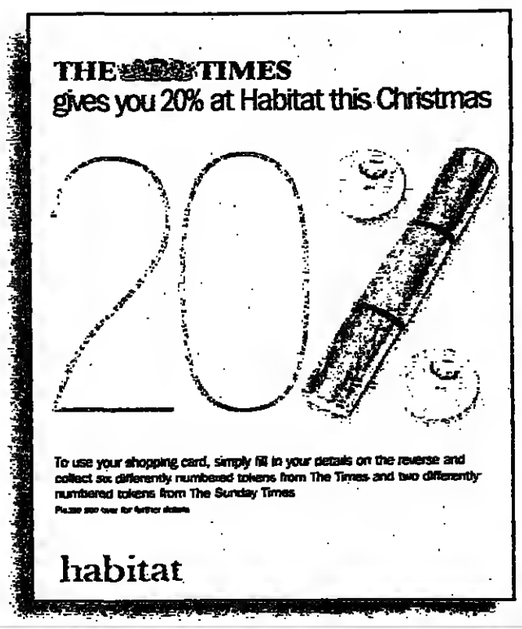

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Law Report November 16 1998 House of Lords

Wide discretion of chief constable to prevent breach of the peace

Regina v Chief Constable of Sussex, Ex parte International Trader's Ferry Ltd

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches November 11]

The duty of the police to uphold the law was subject to a wide discretion on the part of the chief constable and circumstances could arise where, having regard to the manpower and financial resources available to meet the overall operational needs of the force, a decision could properly be taken not to commit all available resources to a given dispute or demonstration, or to restrain a lawful activity so as to prevent a breach of the peace.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by International Trader's Ferry Ltd, from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) ([1998] QB 477) reversing the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Popplewell) ([1996] QB 197) to grant an order of certiorari quashing two decisions by the Chief Constable of Sussex to restrict sailings of livestock from Shoreham owing to the cost of policing demonstrations by groups opposed to such sailings.

In 1995 Trader's Ferry had begun a regular service across the Channel from the port of Shoreham after the major ferry operators had stopped carrying livestock cargo.

Large numbers of demonstrators at Shoreham had necessitated a high level of policing and after several months of providing cover for five days of sailings a week the chief constable decided that the financial and manpower resources required to police the port area was interfering with the efficient policing of the county.

He accordingly reduced the level of policing to two consecutive days a week, or four consecutive days a fortnight, and, on days when no cover was to be provided, his officers turned back livestock vehicles if it was thought that a breach of the peace might otherwise occur. After several weeks of twice-weekly sailings, Trader's Ferry moved its sailings to Dover but in 1996 they ceased owing to the BSE crisis.

Mr P. M. Roth, QC and Mr Rhodri Thompson for Trader's Ferry; Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC and Mr Adam Lewis for the chief constable.

LORD SLYNN said that as a matter of domestic law, Trader's Ferry's case in essence was that the chief constable had an overriding duty to make it possible for lawful activities to be carried out and that he could not lawfully allow the illegal acts of violent demonstrators to deflect him from that duty.

Alternatively, if he had a discretion as to how he dealt with the problem then his decision was one to which no chief constable could reasonably have come.

As his Lordship saw it, a right to trade lawfully was not an absolute right by which the chief constable owed a duty to protect the trader at whatever cost, any more than was the right to protest lawfully such an absolute right.

In a situation where there were conflicting rights and the police had a duty to uphold the law the police might, in deciding what to do, have to balance a number of factors, not the least of which was the likelihood of a serious breach of the peace being commined. That involved balancing judgment and discretion.

In coming to his decisions, the chief constable had taken into account the number of men available to him, his financial resources to provide police officers, the rights of others in the area and their protection, and the risk of injury during the demonstration to the drivers, the police and others. He took into account no less the competing rights of Trader's Ferry to trade and of those who objected to the trade peacefully to demonstrate.

It was wrong to over-emphasise particular areas where he might have done more or where other chief constables might have reacted in a somewhat different way to particular aspects of the problem. The overall picture had to be regarded.

As was said by Barnard and Hare ((1997) 60 Mod Law Review 394, 409) "there may well be important and sound reasons for a chief constable's decision not to commit all his force's resources to ... a given dispute or demonstration." This was such a case.

As to the police on rare occasions having told lorry drivers to turn back when their resources were insufficient to provide protection, there was no rule that the police could never restrain a lawful activity if that was the only way to prevent violence and a breach of the peace.

It had been argued that whatever the position under domestic law, the chief constable's decisions were measures amounting to a quantitative restriction on exports contrary to article 34(1) of the EC Treaty.

His Lordship doubted that the chief constable's acts or omissions here did constitute a "measure" for the purposes of article 34, but it was not necessary to decide the question because even on the assumption that they did constitute measures, the decisions taken by the chief constable were justified on the ground of public policy within article 36.

Quantitative restrictions justified on grounds of public policy included not just situations where there was something inherently bad about the activity itself which justified the restriction but also where the broader requirements of public policy, here the maintenance of public order, justified steps being taken which so long as proportionate might have a restrictive effect.

The chief constable had shown that what he did in providing police assistance was proportionate to what was required. To protect the lorries, in the way that he did, was a suitable and necessary way of dealing with potentially violent demonstrators.

To limit the occasions when sufficient police could be made available was, in the light of the resources available to him to deal with immediate and foreseeable events at the port and at the same time to carry out all his other police duties, had been shown to be necessary and in no way disproportionate to the restrictions which were involved.

He was controlling and arresting violent offenders. He was, moreover, not dealing with a situation where no other way of exporting the animals was available. Far from failing to protect the appellants' trade he was seeking to do it in the most effective way available with his resources.

Lord Nolan and Lord Cooke delivered speeches concurring with Lord Slynn.

LORD HOFFMANN said that the claim in domestic law was quite hopeless. The fact that a chief constable considered that certain resources would be needed to prevent some kind of criminal behaviour did not entail that he was obliged to provide them.

He might, for example, decide that the only way to eliminate muggings on the streets of Brighton or burglaries in Rottingdean would be to have many more constables on patrol and spend large sums on vehicles and communication equipment. That could not create a duty to find the resources at the expense of other policing activities.

There was no distinction between the interests of Trader's Ferry in obtaining protection from demonstrators and those of the citizens of Brighton and Rottingdean in obtaining protection from muggers and burglars.

His Lordship felt some reluctance about dealing with the European aspect of the case on the assumptions accepted by the courts below, namely that Trader's Ferry were entitled to enforce Community rights under articles 5 and 34 of the Treaty, and that in considering justification it was right to consider public policy from the point of view of the chief constable rather than the United Kingdom as a whole.

The substance of the complaint was that the chief constable had not taken measures to protect the convoys. In the European jurisprudence on the free movement of goods Trader's Ferry could only claim infringement of article 34 in respect of positive preventive measures as being directly enforceable by citizens, not a failure to act.

Nor could it rely on the requirement under article 5 for the member state to take positive steps to ensure fulfilment of the article 34 obligation, since his Lordship did not believe that article 5 had direct effect in such circumstances.

As to justification, the difficulty was that it had to be seen in terms of the legitimate interests of the member state as a whole and, for that purpose, all the institutions of the state were aggregated and treated as a single entity.

But it would be absurd for a court to make an order against an individual chief constable requiring him to take certain steps on the assumption that he had access to all the resources of the United Kingdom.

He plainly could not comply with such an order. That reinforced the view that article 34 had no application to the present case.

If, however, it could be assumed legitimate to examine the public policy justification in article 36 on the basis that one was concerned only with the obligations of the chief constable, then his Lordship agreed that he had acted in pursuance of a legitimate head of public policy and that the degree of restriction on exports could not be shown to have been disproportionate.

LORD HOPE agreed that there was no breach of duty in domestic law.

He also doubted the assumptions accepted below but he agreed with Lord Slynn that, if they were made, the chief constable's actions could be justified under article 36 on the ground of public policy.

Solicitors: Wynne Baxter Godfree, Brighton; Herbert Smith for Mr Richard Grout, Lewes.

Partners must make change in profits explicit

Joyce v Morrissey and Others

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment November 6]

Partners who wished to change the distribution of profit among the members of the partnership, displacing the presumption of equality laid down by section 24 of the Partnership Act 1890, had to make it absolutely clear to their fellow partners, and their fellow partners had to accept, that the only basis on which they would continue was on a different and unequal basis.

That could not be achieved simply by partnership accounts being sent to the fellow partners showing the new unequal distribution, and assuming that the fellow partners' silence constituted acceptance of the new terms, particularly where members of the partnership might not be expected to understand the accounts without some assistance and explanation.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the first defendant, Stephen Morrissey, against the decision of Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as a High Court judge on December 19, 1996, on a preliminary issue in an action brought by the plaintiff, Michael Adrian Joyce.

The judge declared that Mr Joyce was entitled to a quarter share of all the net profits, save those derived from songwriting and publishing, from the activities of a partnership comprising the four members of the 1980s rock band The Smiths.

Mr Joyce was the drummer; Mr Morrissey was the singer; the second defendant, Mr John Marr, was the lead guitarist; and the second plaintiff, Mr Andrew Rourke, who later withdrew from the action, was the bass guitarist.

In essence the claim put forward by Mr Joyce was that as performing members of the group he and Mr Rourke were entitled to equal shares with Mr Morrissey and Mr Marr of all net profits from recordings and live performances.

Mr Morrissey's case was that he and Mr Marr had been the prime movers in the band and had effectively been the ones controlling its management and organisation, and had made a far greater contribution and commitment to it; and that it had been agreed and was understood by all members of the group that that should be reflected in their shares being 40 per cent each, and those of Mr Joyce and Mr Rourke being only 10 per cent each.

He relied on, inter alia, the fact that in July 1986 the group's accountants, O. J. Kilkenny & Co, had sent Mr Joyce a copy of the accounts for the period from the commencement of the partnership up to April 5, 1984, showing a division of profits in the proportions 40/40/10/10, and that since Mr Joyce had made no objection at that stage, his silence must be taken as acceptance of the way the profits were split.

The judge, having heard all the evidence, concluded that the defendants had failed to rebut the presumption under section 24 of the 1890 Act, and upheld the plaintiff's claim.

Section 24 of the 1890 Act provides: "The interests of partners in the partnership property and their rights and duties in relation to the partnership shall be determined, subject to any agreement express or implied between the partners, by the following rules: (a) all the partners are entitled to share equally in the capital and profits of the business, and must contribute equally towards the losses whether of capital or otherwise sustained by the firm..."

Mr Murray Rosen, QC and Mr Tim Penny for Mr Morrissey; Mr Nigel Davis, QC and Mr Edmund Cullen for Mr Joyce.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said it was clear as a matter of partnership law that if one or more partners made a greater contribution than others, that in no way displaced the presumption of equality: see *Lindley & Banks on Partnership* (17th edition [1995] paragraph 19-22).

It was unsustainable on the evidence that the partners had conducted their activities from the commencement of the partnership on the basis of a split of 40/40/10/10. The maximum that could be said was that Mr Morrissey wanted to change the equal sharing to a 40/40/10/10 split, but Mr Joyce and Mr Rourke were not happy to agree to that.

Mr Morrissey undoubtedly felt that because of the more major contribution he and Mr Marr were making, he ought to be able to dictate the terms on which the partnership continued. But he might not have appreciated certain fundamentals of partnership law.

First, unless there was some express agreement or partnership deed between the partners allowing for it, it was not open to one partner, by issuing an ultimatum that he was only continuing on the basis of a change in the distribution, to achieve that change if the other partners were equally making it clear that they did not accept that ultimatum.

Furthermore, without express power in a partnership agreement, it was not open to a majority of partners to simply expel another.

Of course, it was open to a partner actually to make clear he would cease being a member unless there was a change and in that situation it was equally open to the other partners either to agree or accept the termination of the partnership.

Once it was established, as it was in this case, that the partnership was from its commencement on the basis of equality, for Mr Morrissey to establish that there was a variation from equality, he must show the Mr Joyce accepted in a contractual sense that that was the basis on which the group was to continue, and for there to be a contractual acceptance the terms must be certain and there must be consideration.

If there was to be a variation of that type of partnership where there was no express partnership deed providing powers to make variations, the consideration would normally be provided by the agreement not to terminate the partnership if the new terms were agreed, but it must be possible to spell out an agreement of that kind before a variation could be established.

In this case, once it was accepted, as it must be, that the terms of the partnership initially involved equality, there was nothing to produce a variation on which Mr Morrissey could rely until the sending of the accounts to Mr Joyce and Mr Rourke in July 1986.

What Mr Morrissey would have to establish was that by the accountants sending the accounts to Mr Joyce an offer was being made by Mr Morrissey and Mr Marr, that the only basis on which they were prepared to continue the partnership was on the basis that Mr Rourke and Mr Joyce agreed that as from the beginning of the partnership the distribution should be unequal and on a 40/40/10/10 split.

The judge found that Mr Joyce "did not study or understand the accounts he did receive and was given no help or explanation from the firm".

It was clearly open to the judge so to find; but in any case it was impossible to construe the sending of accounts by the partners' accountant as an offer that Mr Morrissey and Mr Marr were only prepared to continue on a 40/40/10/10 basis, and quite impossible to construe Mr Joyce's silence as acceptance.

There would have had to be a letter or some other communication bringing clearly to Mr Joyce's attention that that was the position.

Mr Morrissey no doubt felt aggrieved because he felt that he and Mr Marr had made the major contribution and taken risks which Mr Rourke and Mr Joyce did not, and that it was unfair for that not to be reflected in the split of the profits. He also felt aggrieved that the judge had described him as devious.

In his Lordship's view, the judge merely intended to convey that Mr Morrissey had not faced up to Mr Joyce and Mr Rourke with an ultimatum, and sought to bring about inequality by other means. It was certainly not suggested that he had been dishonest and if that was how the judge's comment had been understood, the record was now set straight.

The judge was right to conclude that the basis on which The Smiths commenced their partnership, both as a fact and as presumed by law, was never varied.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Peter Gibson gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Angel & Co; Rowlands, Manchester.

Joint and severable liability for paying costs

Mainwaring and Another v Goldtech Investments Ltd (No 2)

Goldtech Investments Ltd v Mainwaring and Another

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment October 30]

Where a costs order made against two parties was wholly disallowed against one paying party under Order 62, rule 28(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court because of the receiving party's failure to serve a bill of costs on that party, the effect of that order was also to disallow the costs against the second paying party even though she had been properly served, because of the paying parties' joint and several liability for costs.

Accordingly there was no power under Order 62 to disallow the costs order against one paying party while leaving undisturbed the order against the second.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of Ms Zipporah Mainwaring and Mr Robert Lisle against the decision of Mr Justice Robert Walker on May 9, 1997 to set aside the whole of the taxation proceedings and certificates against Mr Lisle for the costs of Goldtech Investments Ltd awarded by Mr Justice Hoffmann on November 13, 1989 and December 4, 1989 and totalling £73,293.77, and order the amendment of the certificates to name Ms Mainwaring as the only paying party.

Order 62, rule 28 provides: "(4) Where a party entitled to costs - (a) fails without good reason to commence or conduct proceedings for the taxation of those costs ... in accordance with this Order ... the taxing officer may (i) disallow all or part of the cost of taxation that he would otherwise have awarded that party; and (ii) after taking into account all the circumstances (including prejudice suffered by any other party as a result of such failure...) allow the party so entitled less than the amount he would otherwise have allowed on taxation of the bill or wholly disallow the costs."

Ms Mainwaring and Mr Lisle in person; Mr Peter Sheridan, QC, for Goldtech; Mr Jeremy Morgan as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that on the making of the costs order by Mr Justice Hoffmann, Ms Mainwaring and Mr Lisle became jointly and severally liable for Goldtech's taxed costs.

By Order 62, rule 30(3) a party whose costs were to be taxed within seven days after beginning taxation proceedings had to send a copy of his bill of costs to every party entitled to be heard on taxation.

That included Mr Lisle, who shared the same address as Ms Mainwaring. On September 18, 1992 Ms Mainwaring objected to taxation certificates against Mr Lisle because the bills had not been served on him. From that date Goldtech's former solicitors [then Lipkin Gorman] were on notice that the service on Mr Lisle required by Order 62, rule 30(3) had not been effected.

That defect was not remedied but on September 9, 1994 taxation certificates were nevertheless served on Mr Lisle as well as Ms Mainwaring. Mr Lisle promptly rejected all certificates and still there was no service on him.

On March 11, 1996 Mr Lisle served a summons seeking disallowance of all costs under Order 62, rule 28(4). The chief taxing master ordered that the copy bill of costs sent to Mr Lisle on March 29, 1996 stand as good service as of May 23, 1996.

Mr Lisle appealed. Mr Justice Robert Walker, in judgments on March 26 and May 9, 1997 made an order wholly setting aside the taxation proceedings and certificates against Mr Lisle alone.

The effect of that order was wholly to disallow costs against Mr Lisle within Order 62, rule 28(4). The judge was under the impression that Ms Mainwaring could not and would not claim contribution against Mr Lisle.

He did not appear to have considered the possible injustice to Ms Mainwaring, if there was no right of contribution, of having to pay all instead of half the costs in circumstances where the default was not hers but that of Goldtech's solicitors.

Mr Sheridan submitted that the closing words of Order 62, rule 30(5) empowered the taxing officer to take the course which the judge did on appeal to him. The paragraph gave a wide discretion.

In his Lordship's judgment, setting aside the taxation proceedings under rule 30(5) did not prevent the commencement of a further taxation. Moreover, the words "make such order (if any) dealing with the taxation proceedings generally as he thinks fit" had to be read with the preceding words "exercise his powers under this order".

Upon a paragraph (4) failure, the taxing officer was not empowered under paragraph (5) to extinguish a party's liability to costs but could exercise powers conferred elsewhere in the order. That took the court to the powers under rule 28(4) on which the case turned.

At common law one person under a joint liability for debt was released by the discharge of the other: see *In re EWA (a Debtor)* ([1901] 2 KB 642, 649).

Ms Mainwaring submitted that by way of exception to the common law rule Goldtech's solicitors could have reached an agreement with Mr Lisle to release him while preserving their right to costs against her. They did not seek such an agreement.

Because liability under the 1989 orders for costs was joint, she too was released from liability under these orders by Mr Lisle's release. That was the effect of disallowance under rule 28(4) combined with the operation of the common law rule with respect to a joint debt.

Mr Morgan substantially supported Ms Mainwaring's submissions.

Mr Sheridan submitted that Order 62, rule 28(4) empowered the court wholly to disallow costs with respect to one defendant while preserving the liability of the other under the certificate.

Mr Justice Hoffmann's orders for costs subsisted and Ms Mainwaring retained her common law right to seek contribution from Mr Lisle notwithstanding the order wholly disallowing costs against him.

In his Lordship's judgment, the existence of the common law rule ran together with the unlikelihood of the rules being intended to create a situation in which a defendant who had a rule 28(4) order, wholly disallowing costs, in his favour being liable to contribute.

Together they confirmed that the intention of the rule was that disallowance of costs against Mr Lisle had the effect of disallowing costs against the joint debtor, Ms Mainwaring.

A taxation in accordance with the rules was necessary if money was to be recovered under Order 62. Upon a nil taxation in accordance with the rules, the joint debt created by the order ceased to exist.

That might be considered an undeserved windfall for Ms Mainwaring, but was the least unsatisfactory result following the serious default of Goldtech by their solicitors.

It would only be in an extreme case that a taxing officer would wholly disallow costs against a party and there could be no legitimate complaint if the joint debtor was also released.

His Lordship was fortified in that view by the procedure in rules 22, 28, 29 and 30. There was a single bill of costs and the procedure led to a single certificate.

Rule 28 permitted the taxing officer to disallow costs, providing for a reduction in the amount to be awarded or allowed to the receiving party under the single bill and did not provide for shades of liability as between paying parties. The taxing certificates were to be reissued to show the sum of costs allowed to be nil on each certificate.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: S. J. Berwin & Co (not instructed below); Treasury Solicitor.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Place where damage to goods arose

Réunion Européenne SA and Others v Spliethoff's Bevrachtingskantoor BV and Another

Case C-51/97

Before J.-P. Puissochet, President of Chamber and Judges J.C. Moitinho de Almeida and C. Gulmann

Advocate General G. Cosmas

(Opinion February 5)

[Judgment October 27]

For the purposes of the jurisdiction provision in article 5(3) of the Brussels Convention, the place where damage to goods arose, in the case of an international transport operation involving carriage by sea and then by land, was the place where the maritime carrier was to deliver the goods; it was not the place where the consignee merely discovered the damage.

The Third Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on a reference by the Cour de Cassadon, France, under the protocol of June 3, 1971 on the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the Brussels Convention of September 27, 1968 on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, for a preliminary ruling on provisions of the Convention as amended by the Convention of October 9, 1978 on the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (OJ 1978 L304 p77), the Convention of October 25, 1982 on the Accession of Greece (OJ 1982 L388 p1) and the Convention of May 26, 1989 on the Accession of Spain and Portugal (OJ 1989 L285 p1).

A cargo of peaches was carried by sea from Melbourne, Australia to Rotterdam aboard the vessel Alblasgracht V002 under a bearer bill of lading issued by Refrigerated Container Carriers Pty Ltd ("RCC"), whose registered office was in Sydney, then by road under an international consignment note, to Rungis, France, where the consignee, Brambi Fruits, had its registered office, and where Brambi discovered that the fruit had been damaged owing to a breakdown in the cooling system.

The plaintiffs, Brambi's insurers, having paid compensation to Brambi and become subrogated to its rights, brought proceedings in France against three defendants: RCC, on whose headed paper the bill of lading had been issued; Spliethoff's Bevrachtingskantoor BV, which actually carried the goods by sea, despite not being mentioned on the bill of lading, and whose registered office was in Amsterdam, and the master of the vessel, who resided in The Netherlands, as representative of the vessel's owners and charterers.

The court declared that it had jurisdiction in relation to RCC, on the basis that the goods were to be delivered to Brambi in France, but in relation to the other two defendants it declined jurisdiction in favour of the courts either of Rotterdam, the place of performance of the obligation in the meaning of article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention, relating to contracts, or of Amsterdam or Sydney, pursuant to article 6, relating to several defendants.

On appeal, the plaintiffs claimed that it had not been established that Brambi had concluded an agreement with the second and third defendants, so that article 5(1) could not be applied to them, and that article 5(3), relating to tort, should have been applied.

They claimed in the alternative that the dispute was indivisible since RCC, as well as the other two defendants, had been involved in the same transport operation, so that the court of first instance, having accepted jurisdiction as against RCC, should have done so as against the other two defendants as well.

Article 5 of the Convention provides:

"A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued: (1) in matters relating to a contract, in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question ... (3) in matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict, in the courts for the place where the harmful event occurred..."

Article 6 provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may also be sued: (1) where he is one of a number of defendants, in the courts for the place where any one of them is domiciled..."

In its judgment the Third Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The phrase "matters relating to a contract" in article 5(1) of the Convention did not cover a situation where there was no obligation freely assumed by one party towards the other.

Since the bill of lading in the present case disclosed no contractual relationship freely entered into between Brambi on the one hand and Spliethoff's and the master of the vessel, who, according to the insurers, were the actual maritime carriers of the goods, on the other, the action against the latter could not be a matter relating to a contract within article 5(1).

In Case 189/87 *Kalfelis v Schröder* ([1988] ECR 5565, paragraph 18), the court had defined the concept of matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict within article 5(3) as an independent concept covering all actions seeking to establish the liability of a defendant which were not related to a contract within article 5(1).

That was the position in the present case, so that the action against the actual carriers was one under article 5(3).

The court had held that where the place of the happening of the event which might give rise to liability in tort, delict or quasi-delict and the place where that event resulted in damage were not identical, the expression "place where the harmful event occurred" in article 5(3) covered both the place where the damage occurred and the place of the event giving rise to it, so that the defendant could be sued, at the option of the plaintiff, in the courts for either of those places.

The choice thus available to the plaintiff could not, however, be extended beyond the particular circumstances which justified it, as otherwise the general principle in article 2 that the courts of the contracting state where the defendant was domiciled were to have jurisdiction would be negated, with the result that, in cases other than those expressly provided for, jurisdiction would be attributed to the courts of the plaintiff's domicile, a solution which, in the light of article 3, the Convention did not favour.

Accordingly, article 5(3) could not be construed so extensively as to encompass any place where the adverse consequences could be felt of an event which had already caused damage actually arising elsewhere.

It followed that a consignee of goods who, on completion of a transport operation by sea and then by land, found that the goods delivered to him were damaged, could bring proceedings against the person whom he regarded as the actual maritime carrier before the courts for either the place where the damage occurred or the place of the event giving rise to it, but article 5(3) did not permit him to bring proceedings in the courts of the place in which he himself ascertained the damage to his assets.

In an international transport operation of the kind at issue the place where the event giving rise to the damage occurred might be difficult or impossible to determine, and in such circumstances proceedings would be brought against the actual maritime carrier in the courts for the place where the damage occurred.

That place could not be either the place of final delivery, which could be changed in mid-voyage, or the place where the damage was ascertained: it could only be the place where the actual maritime carrier was to deliver the goods.

The Convention did not use the term "indivisible" in relation to disputes, but only the term "related", in article 22, the conditions for the application of which were not met in the present case.

As was clear from the very wording of article 6(1), it applied only if the proceedings were brought before the courts for the place where one of the defendants was domiciled, which was not the present case.

The objective of legal certainty pursued by the Convention would not be attained if the fact that a court in a contracting state had accepted jurisdiction as regards one of the defendants not domiciled in a contracting state made it possible to bring another defendant, domiciled in a contracting state, before that same court, in cases other than those envisaged by the Convention.

In *Kalfelis* the court had held that for article 6(1) to apply, there had to exist, between the various actions brought by the same plaintiff against different defendants, a connection of such a kind that it was expedient to determine the actions together in order to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from separate proceedings, and that a court which had jurisdiction under article 5(3) over an action in so far as it was based on tort or delict did not have jurisdiction over that action in so far as it was not so based.

It followed that two claims in one action for compensation, directed against different defendants and based in one instance on contractual liability and in the other on liability in tort or delict, could not be regarded as connected.

Although there were disadvantages in different aspects of the same dispute being adjudicated on by different courts, they were mitigated by the considerations that a plaintiff was always entitled to bring his action in its entirety before the courts for the domicile of the defendant and that article 22 of the Convention allowed the first court seised, in certain circumstances, to hear the case in its entirety provided that there was a connection between the actions brought before the different courts.

On those grounds the court ruled:

1 An action by which the consignee of goods found to be damaged on completion of a transport operation by sea and then by land, or by which his insurer who had been subrogated to his rights after compensating him, sought redress for the damage suffered, relying on the bill of lading covering the maritime transport, not against the person who issued that document on his headed paper but against the person whom the plaintiff considered to be the actual maritime carrier, fell within the scope not of matters relating to a contract within the meaning of article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention as amended, but of matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict within the meaning of article 5(3).

2 The place where the consignee of the goods, on completion of a transport operation by sea and then by land, merely discovered the existence of the damage to the goods delivered to him, could not serve to determine the "place where the harmful event occurred" within the meaning of article 5(3) of the Convention, as interpreted by the Court.

3 Article 6(1) of the Convention was to be interpreted as meaning that a defendant domiciled in a contracting state could not be sued in another contracting state before a court seised of an action against a co-defendant not domiciled in a contracting state on the ground that the dispute was indivisible rather than merely displaying a connection.

Review of hear-by dates

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division): (Hear-by dates)

Hear-by dates for the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, have been reviewed, with the aim of rationalising hear-by dates applying to broadly similar types of cases.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on November 10 when handing down a practice direction replacing the hear-by dates in *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure)* (*The Times* May 14, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1013).

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said the new hear-by dates set out below applied to all cases entered in the court's records on or after December 1, 1998.

Family

In child cases the hear-by date was three months: in financial cases six months.

Crown Office cases and Immigration appeals

In immigration appeals and Crown Office interlocutory cases the hear-by date was three months: in other Crown Office final order cases nine months.

High Court

In cases under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court the hear-by date was three months: in cases concerning other interlocutory orders, including appeals confined to Order 14A, five months. For appeals referring to Order 14A and another issue, the hear-by date would be determined by the other issue.

In bankruptcy and company directors' disqualification cases the hear-by date was five months.

In personal injury cases in which limitation was tried as a preliminary issue five months. In cases concerning all other preliminary issues eight months.

In personal injury final order cases 12 months: in cases concerning other final orders 15 months.

County Court

In cases concerning interlocutory orders the hear-by date was four months: in possession cases four months: in cases concerning all preliminary issues four months.

In cases concerning personal injury final orders eight months: in cases concerning other final orders 12 months: in cases on appeal from tribunals (other than immigration appeals) 12 months.

It should be noted that expedition continued to be available in accordance with *Unilever v Chefaro Ltd (Practice Note) (Court of Appeal)* ([1995] 1 WLR 246).

In addition, from November 16, 1998 very serious or distressing personal injury cases would be treated as being in the category of urgent appeals set out in that *Practice Note*.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,381.80	Allied Domecq†	515	-11½	4.0	13.5
187.40	Bulmer (HP)	355	+18	5.3	15.3
10.70	Burn Stewart	18	+6½	...	...
23,007.50	Diageo†	645	+21½	3.1	16.5
94.90	Glenmorangie 4	697½	-20	2.5	10.3
334.00	Highland Dist	250	+1	4.6	11.1
212.00	Mathew Clark	239½	...	6.9	8.2
8.23	Mrydon W	23½	-1½	...	...
4,045.00	SA Breweries	1131½	-140½	3.1	15.9

BANKS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
16,595.90	ABN-AMRO	1182½	-81½	3.4	13.2
16,671.16	Abbey Nat	1179	+21	3.4	17.4
5,185.90	Alliance & Leic	888	-1	3.2	16.7
7,513.60	Allied Irish	873½	+34½	2.2	24.3
5,938.70	Aus New Z	385½	+16	0.3	...
25,100.40	Bank America	3678½	-8½	...	...
7,397.60	Bank Scotland†	599	-21	2.2	15.0
18,174.20	Barclays	1218	-25	4.6	11.1
5,602.50	Bk of Ireland	1091	-38	2.6	11.9
6,952.00	Commerzbk	1725	-31½	3.2	...
11,941.50	Dai Ichi Kan Y	381½	+3½	1.1	...
18,686.90	Deutsche Bk	3509½	-384½	1.8	...
463.00	Espirito Santo	1171½	-3½	3.2	...
7,472.60	Fuji Bank Y	258	...	1.6	...
12,706.40	HSBC	1439	-43	4.5	13.2
25,306.16	HSBC HK	1388	-25	4.7	12.7
20,327.70	Halifax	827	-18	3.7	22.7
750.80	Irish Perm	798½	-38½	2.8	23.1
42,330.90	Lloyds TSB	779	-23	3.0	22.4
12,568.70	Nat Aust Bk	877	+31½	4.8	...
15,645.60	Nat West	922½	-62½	4.5	15.8
2,419.80	Northern Rock	545	+25	2.5	18.3
6,842.50	Ryl Bk Scot	782	-100	3.6	14.5
6,200.60	Stand Chart	620	-16	3.9	10.5
14,061.70	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.8	...
7,134.90	Westpac	376½	+16½	2.1	...
5,787.80	Woolwich	366½	+6	3.4	17.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
51.20	Ann Street Grp	280	+6	5.6	0.3
6,224.70	Bass	782	+34	4.5	13.6
14.10	Brk for the Bdr	42	+½	8.0	13.7
30.30	Burtonwd Brw	145½	+7½	5.8	6.2
137.90	City Centre Rest	71	+6½	6.5	16.6
4,170.30	Compass Gp	618	-12	1.8	40.5
39.80	Eldridge P A	182½	-5	4.6	7.9
213.70	Enterprise Inns	397½	+3½	3.2	17.6
60.70	Fuller Sm A	470	+7½	3.0	13.3
1,021.80	Greenalls Grp	344½	+2	0.2	0.1
315.20	Greene King	517½	+1½	4.4	9.4
39.60	Groupe Chez Gerl	193	-6½	2.4	12.4
44.90	Hardy Hanson	224½	+9½	6.6	6.6
44.90	Hall J	1602½	+7½	5.2	7.7
33.30	Inn Business	43	+1	5.5	5.6
160.20	Mansfield	245	+6	4.1	6.4
222.60	Marston Thmp	243½	+67	4.8	10.5
117.00	Morland	362½	+17½	4.6	9.8
67.30	Old Eng Pub	249½	-10	1.8	14.5
2.32	Paramount	19½	+½	...	44.5
537.90	PizzaExpress†	804	+7	8.7	30.3
19.06	Ramsdens (H)	167½	-3½	3.2	20.8
106.60	Regent Inns†	119	-2½	6.9	9.4
84.60	SFI†	142	-1½	11	18.0
4,646.90	Scot & New	749½	+25½	3.9	14.1
25.18	Slug & Lettuce	170½	-6	4.5	22.1
370.70	Vaux Group	252½	+11	5.6	18.4
394.00	Wetherspoon JD†	700½	+6	1.4	20.2
3,998.20	Whitbread†	811	+30½	4.1	14.2
233.60	Wolvrhmptn D	422½	+3½	5.1	9.7
196.80	Yates Bros	307½	+26	1.5	17.3
18.60	Young 4	642½	+50	3.2	19.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
601.90	Aggregate Inds†	70½	-2	2.0	21.4
186.16	Anglian Group	201	-10	6.2	10.9
1,449.60	BPB	280	-20	3.9	12.6
34.30	Baggeridge Brk	83½	+1	5.4	8.0
6.34	Blockleys†	21½	-2	1.5	...
2,388.50	Blue Circle†	307	-35	4.8	18.0
23.60	Breedon PLC	85½	...	6.8	9.1
3,273.16	CRH	852	-30	1.3	21.2
3.15	Cakebread Rby	52½	...	9.0	4.4
51.60	Caparo	00	-17½	6.9	7.4
545.60	Caradon	117	-2	8.7	9.5
167.40	Caradon pf†	93	-½	9.7	...
4.30	Chelsea Gp	00	+1½	16.8	3.6
16.60	Dyson (J&J)	00	...	9.4	6.4
15.50	Ennstone	34	-2½	...	21.3
26.90	Epwin†	122½	+6	10.2	6.4
2.33	Gibbs & Dandy	129½	+1	4.6	10.1
197.80	Graham Gp	141½	+8	5.4	12.0
53.00	Halstead (J)†	175	+2½	7.3	6.8
2,801.80	Hanson	420	-3	3.5	13.5
394.70	Hepworth†	181½	-6	7.0	45.4
23.70	Hewetson	127½	+7½	7.4	8.9
162.90	Heywd Wlm	222½	+33½	7.8	7.7
272.70	Ibstock†	58½	...	4.9	11.6
33.20	Johnston†	262½	+2½	5.4	16.2
23.30	Lilleshall†	82	-½	7.1	22.1
204.90	Marley	70½	-6½	11.8	4.9
165.80	Marshalls†	132½	+1	3.8	8.1
497.60	Meyer Intl	310	+6½	5.2	19.2
86.90	Norcros	53½	-1½	4.3	9.8
811.80	Pilkington	74½	...	6.9	55.8
20.00	Pilkingtons	10½	-½	...	12.6
207.00	Polypipe	123	-½	4.0	6.8
2,135.00	RMC Gp†	818	-72	4.3	11.9
37.60	Ruberoid†	70	+1	7.8	6.5
610.50	Rugby Group†	94	+4	6.5	10.7
17.90	Russell (A)†	71½	...	5.4	9.2
172.40	SIG†	146	+8	6.8	7.2
2.85	SWP	1	...	...	...
34.50	Sharpe & Fisher	151½	-½	5.4	8.6
31.80	Sprng Ram	7	-½	1.6	3.8
986.60	Tarmac†	103½	-5½	6.6	17.5
9.19	Tilon†	83½	...	7.9	0.3
461.80	Travis Perkns	440½	...	3.3	12.7
6.72	Tudor†	60½	...	7.2	5.8
173.50	Ultraframe	187	-6½	2.3	15.8
2,130.10	Wolseley	371½	-38½	4.3	11.1

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
274.60	Albright & Wlt	87½	-1½	8.2	6.8
20.00	Ambes Ind	125	...	8.6	16.8
60.70	Amberley Gp	78½	...	2.9	12.0
28.60	Allilong Ex	62½	+4½	1.3	10.3
13,839.00	BASF DM	2240½	-181½	3.3	...
4,185.60	BOC	856	-14	4.1	18.9
680.10	BTP	379½	-32	4.8	17.1
18.18	Baxter Chem	13	-½	12.5	4.6
18,808.70	Bayer DM50	2321½	-131½	2.5	...
131.60	Blagden	181	-3½	2.8	12.1
60.00	Brent Chemsl	90	-½	3.9	12.5
53.20	Br Vita	234	-23	4.8	11.8
1,941.00	Burmah Castrl	910	-26½	3.0	13.7
67.00	Canning (W)†	295	...	3.9	14.7
99.80	City Technology	205	+1½	3.3	...
338.50	Croda	248½	-4	4.2	14.2
67.00	Doeflex	370	...	3.8	14.6
442.20	Elementis	102½	+½	2.0	13.3
30.90	Ellis & Everard	208	-½	6.4	8.5
20.80	Euro Colour	65	-1½	4.8	11.2
122.30	Hickson†	68½	+5½	2.3	10.3
15,171.10	Hoechst	2581½	-112½	2.7	...
4,253.90	ICI	585	-5	6.5	23.2
592.70	Inspec	336	...	2.5	10.4
326.50	Kalon	91½	+4½	8.5	15.3
975.90	Laporte	500	-51½	5.2	10.1
16.80	Merlstem	45½	-2	6.6	4.2
4.88	Metrotect	19½	...	6.0	5.0
35.30	Porvair	137½	-105	5.8	7.6
277.30	Scapa	115	+1	6.8	7.8
17,270.90	Takeda Chem	1964½	-94	8.5	42.8
133.90	Victrex	171	+11	3.8	13.6
40.30	Wcmblne R	497½	-3½	8.6	7.6
57.50	Yorks Grp	125½	+½	6.6	10.2
454.90	Yule Catto†	298½	+4	4.4	11.4

CONSTRUCTION

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12.18	AAF Inds	52½	+2	...	8.7
87.10	Abbey	225	+5	4.5	1.8
744.20	Alfred McAlpine	347½	-22½	3.9	14.3
326.00	Amec†	156½	-6	4.2	12.8
198.40	Amey	675	-7½	2.1	18.2
138.90	Andrews Sykes†	160	-18	2.5	15.0
545.40	Ashtead	180	-5½	1.6	19.0
13.80	Avonside†	34	...	8.4	5.4
44.40	Bandt	31½	+3	6.0	7.1
489.00	Barratt Devst	210	-17½	6.0	7.7
473.90	Beazer†	165½	-6	5.5	8.2
212.20	Bellway	288	-3	4.5	7.4
6.83	Ben Bailey	68	-2	4.6	0.3
639.50	Berkeley Gp	301½	-1	2.8	8.4
23.10	Bett Bros	154	+8	0.3	...
50.00	Boot (Henry)†	188	...	5.6	6.8
243.60	Bovis Homes†	316	+5	5.4	6.7
8.09	Britannia Grp	35½	...	5.8	5.4
260.50	Bryant	90½	-3	1.3	6.9
45.30	CALA	95½	-1	5.6	5.8
12.10	Clarke T	98½	+1	8.4	5.9
74.30	Costain	22	...	...	...
50.50	Countryside	66	-7	6.2	5.2
184.30	Crest Nicholson	99	+½	5.1	8.5
14.90	Cussins	83½	...	6.9	5.4
16.20	Eve Group	194	...	4.5	16.9
151.70	Fairview Hldgs	83	+2	6.8	6.0
19.00	Galliford†	17½	+½	9.0	1.3
62.60	Gleeson (MJ)	810	...	3.2	...
6.52	Havelock Europ†	34	-4½	17.5	4.2
376.90	Hewden-Stuart†	135	-13	3.5	14.6
7.79	Howard Hldgs	29½	+2½	9.8	...
838.70	Jarvis	633	-16½	1.8	23.9
102.40	Keller	181	-3½	3.7	11.4
90.10	Kier	214	-8½	4.7	9.5
117.19	Laing (J)	253½	-40	5.3	9.6
44.20	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	110	-1	7.3	...
9.57	Lovell (YJ)#	12½	...	...	...
52.60	Maunders (J)	209½	...	3.8	12.1
163.30	McAlpine (A)	143	-4½	6.7	7.8
147.30	McCarthy & S	140	+10½	3.0	...
29.50	McInerney	111½	-2	11	13.3
63.60	Morgan Sindall	190	...	3.1	9.1
207.70	Morrison Cons	308½	+15	2.4	15.6
184.20	Mowlem (J)†	189	+6½	5.2	9.7
329.70	Persimmon	184½	+1	6.8	8.0
14.60	Peterhouse	88½	...	5.0	6.2
22.20	Pochin†	106½	...	4.1	12.6
79.70	Prowting	112	-1	8.0	5.6
301.16	Redrow†	161	+8½	3.1	10.3
40.40	Spander	317½	...	1.5	16.3
36.80	Swan Hill†	53½	+3	8.7	8.6
62.30	Tay Homes†	110½	...	6.8	7.5
666.00	Taylor Woodrw	167	-3	3.1	10.9
221.16	Tilbury Dougl†	243	+3½	5.0	14.1
10.70	Try Group	75½	...	1.7	4.7
27.70	Vibroplant	90	...	8.4	...
64.50	Wainhomes†	102½	...	5.6	7.8
13.40	Ward Hldgs	25½	...	16.8	...
309.00	Westbury	186½	+3	5.2	1.5
87.00	Wiggins	11½	...	...	20.3
253.16	Wilson (C)	127	+½	5.5	8.8
546.30	Wilson Bowdn	387½	-4	2.0	70.6
422.70	Wimpey G	115½	-3½	0.3	7.9

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
64.10	Acton Cp Sols	196	+2½	1.8	...
7.86	Adams & Harvey	185	+32½	14.6	3.4
6.15	Alexanders	15½	-½	...	...
3.94	Ass Br Eng	1½	...	...	18.3
84.20	BSS Group	316½	+4	8.7	9.6
85.40	Baynes (Charles)	51	-2½	7.6	7.4
3.41	Beaming Power	9½	...	...	...
1.77	Bogod 4	30½	...	4.5	4.5
185.90	Brammer	395½	-1	5.6	9.1
3.40	Bridgend Gp	8½	...	2.9	...
17.30	Brit Fittings†	68	-½	8.4	0.0
9.90	Caffyns	300	...	5.8	0.9
2.30	Car Group#	5½	...	...	0.7
40.50	Coverdale	136	-1½	4.1	8.6
13.50	Cook (DC)	31	-1½	9.8	6.4
22.18	Dag Motors†	125	...	9.0	6.1
16.00	Densons El	184½	...	3.6	6.8
96.80	Diploma	192½	-12½	8.4	8.0
1,694.40	Electrocomps	392	-28	3.8	20.6
59.80	Eurodis Elec	61	+3½	7.2	11.1
04.70	European Mtr	84½	-1½	11.8	4.9
52.60	Evans Halshaw	183½	...	13.0	8.2
12.90	Fife Indmar	62½	-1½	7.6	9.8
86.50	Finelist Grp	105	-2½	10.6	4.0
30.30	Gardiner	28	...	4.5	12.4
19.20	Glanchewton	65½	-1	4.1	8.4
9.61	Gowrings	100	+13	4.2	8.5
24.00	HR Owen	15½	+½	7.4	8.1
170.30	Headlam	248	+49	3.7	12.0
4.30	Holders Tech	185	-2½	8.0	5.0
23.70	ISA Intl	44½	-4	9.2	6.2
641.40	Inchcape†	121	-2½	9.9	14.8
6.49	Jacks (Wm)†	59½	...	6.4	3.7
828.70	Kwik-Fit	464	-39	1.8	18.7
425.10	Lex Service	370	+21	6.2	8.6
27.60	Lookers	82½	-2	12.5	5.3
242.10	Menzies (John)	450	...	4.4	12.5
14.20	Middleses	1½	...	...	...
13.70	Midsales	20	+½	3.3	8.6
25.40	Normain	235	+3	5.0	11.8
00.16	Northamber	168½	-16	3.2	9.0
130.30	Partco†	178½	-2½	8.4	11.8
80.10	Pendragon	140½	-8½	9.6	6.6
37.80	Perry Gp†	142½	-2½	8.3	5.5
506.50	Premier Farnell†	186½	-14	7.3	8.7
36.00	Quicks Group	88½	+2½	14.9	4.4
6.97	REA	75	...	0.3	16.4
4.43	Reece	2½	...	...	...
12.50	Ring	31½	-2	6.7	12.4
11.70	Ronson	1½	...	...	...
4.43	Ross Gp	3	...	...	8.4
24.00	Rybrad	64½	...	8.7	6.2
12.50	SEP Ind	12½	-½	13.0	5.9
3.70	Saltire	14½	-½	...	...
53.20	Sanderson Bram	141½	-10	5.1	4.8
54.80	Sedgemoor	35½	-3	7.0	8.5
30.70	Symes	140	-4	2.3	5.5
38.60	Time Products	77½	+1	11.8	5.6
34.10	Trust Motor Grp	227½	...	1.4	4.8
54.10	UMECO	342½	+15	2.7	14.2
31.00	United Carrs Gp	25	-21	6.0	5.6
102.70	Vardy (Reg)	179½	+1	5.7	7.5
120.00	WF Elect	795	-5	2.8	20.1
54.30	Wyko	70	+1	5.8	8.4
22.60	Young (H)	100½	-2	5.8	6.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
306.00	Amalgasco▼	195	-10	3.6	12.6
10,545.90	Broken Hill	512½	-3	3.8	...
492.70	Brierley Inv	16½	-½	1.8	4.7
6,098.50	Brit Amer Tob†	515½	+25½	5.4	18.7
24.50	Cosalt	167½	-6	7.4	6.7
309.10	DCC	457½	+62½	2.3	14.7
3,105.40	Gallaher	450	+11	4.6	15.1
16,873.30	Hutch Whamp	414½	+3	2.0	23.6
3,537.60	Imperial Tob	679	+34	4.0	18.5
1,396.20	Jardine Math	100	-17½	6.6	8.5
103.90	Lonrho Africa	60	+3	4.4	16.5
333.90	Powell Duffryn	391	+1	6.8	9.6
164.00	Staveley	90	+8½	12.9	16.8
2,580.30	Swire Pacific	274½	+½	4.4	...
3,275.20	Tomkins	278½	-12½	4.9	11.8
37.00	Unitare	190	...	8.5	9.8
91.20	Wardle Storeys	355	-14½	7.4	10.3
354.60	Wassall	227	+23	3.4	14.0
20.80	Whitecroft	44½	-1	13.1	7.3

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,644.00	Br Energy	645	+91	3.0	30.3
6,264.50	National Grid	425	+13	3.6	21.5
6,802.10	National Power	549	+12½	8.1	11.8
5,646.30	PowerGen	870	+35	4.4	13.1
2,701.90	Hydro-Elect	897½	+63	3.5	15.3
7,643.20	Scottish Power	638	+16	4.2	15.2
3,354.70	Southern Elec	898	+69½	4.2	18.6
852.16	Viridian	850	+17	4.4	14.6

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
443.20	ARM Holdings	910	+7½	...	79.4
51.30	Acal	285	...	4.6	10.0
542.18	Admiral	865	-190	0.5	39.5
28.20	Amstrad†	36½	+1½	1.7	...
19.80	Ariel	29½	+1½	5.5	41.3
123.40	Astec	40	...	3.1	4.5
47.70	Azlan	44½	-3	...	...
280.20	BICC†	60½	+12½	15.0	...
111.60	Bick	380	-0	6.8	11.8
762.70	Bowthorpe†	373½	+2	3.8	13.8
3.52	Bulgin A†	13½	...	11.8	11.1
20.30	CML Micro	127½	...	6.9	12.0
6.15	Channel Hldgs	6½	-1½	10.2	4.5
114.60	Chloride	47	+1	2.1	14.2
92.90	Critchley	570	+25	3.1	13.6
213.80	Delta†	142½	+15½	11.2	6.8
95.50	Domino	412½	+5	3.8	14.0
19.00	Dowding Mills	46	-1	9.0	12.2
00.60	Druck	287½	+7½	6.8	25.6
801.80	Electrolux B	843½	-71½	10.9	22.9
21.00	Emess	20½	...	3.7	15.9
24,494.50	Ericsson B	1371½	-21½	0.5	30.4
311.00	Fanny Group†	326½	...	3.9	11.0
274.70	Filtronic	174	+10½	0.5	28.0
5.74	Forward Tech	18½	...	...	...
12,835.20	GEC	480	+24	3.0	20.7
26.00	Ind Control	15½	-1½	...	...
6.08	Intelek	14½	+½	7.8	11.6
6.35	Jasmin	144½	...	...	6.9
6.63	LPA	65	-1½	4.5	20.9
464.60	Misel	438	+16	...	...
189.10	NXT	308½	+25	...	...
11.70	Network Tech	32½	-4	5.0	3.7
00.00	Oxford Inst	201	-10½	4.9	18.1
137.20	Pace Micro	64	-½	...	...
12,489.20	Philips Lmp pr	3603½	-137½	1.7	12.4
13.60	Plasmon	69½	-2½	...	...
175.00	Pressac†	304	-3½	2.9	...
7.53	Prestwick	18½	...	2.7	...
325.30	Psion	427½	+7½	0.8	41.0
906.37	Racal Elect	312½	+9½	2.4	...
8.70	Radamec†	46½	+5	7.4	10.0
265.00	Renishaw†	364	-½	3.4	16.5
2.54	Rodime	1	...	...	...
128.70	Roxboro	229	-7	4.1	18.8
16.20	Servomex	157½	-5	7.5	9.4
27.30	Silverstone	32½	-3	5.8	8.2
5,711.80	TDK	4387½	-231½	8.7	19.9
13.60	TGI	64	-½	7.1	7.0
336.60	TLG	174	...	2.6	21.4
11.50	Tadpole Tech	9½	...	...	...
42.60	Telemetrix	46½	+4½	4.3	...
11.80	Telspec	36½	-7	9.3	3.2
17.80	Thorpe FW	137	+4½	4.8	6.4
5.88	Total Systems	55½	-11	3.7	8.3
7.91	Ultima Networks	5½	...	...	...
28.70	Vigten Technology†	23½	...	4.8	9.4
140.70	Volex	499	-1	5.4	11.8

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
20.60	AIM	140	-2½	4.0	...
3,078.40	ALSTOM	1425	+3½	...	15.5
17.16	ASW	20½	-1½	...	...
48.80	Alumasc	121	-1½	6.8	6.8
198.50	Alvis†	186	...	2.3	9.8
151.70	Ascot	128	-5½	5.8	5.9
44.30	Ash & Lacy†	118½	+1	6.3	0.0
3.75	Ayrshire Metal	37½	...	8.7	3.6
1,451.80	BBA†	342½	-27½	2.4	12.0
3,393.60	BTR†	105	-8	9.1	14.8
27.50	BWI	50	...	3.2	9.1
96.70	Babcock	56½	-3½	3.2	12.5
4.12	Bailey (CH)	7½	...	4.2	...
3.56	Beauford	4½	...	13.9	...
252.00	Bertstead	165	-6½	4.7	7.5
169.60	Bond Ov Un Ln	75½	-3	6.8	...
944.80	Bodycote	920	-35	1.4	19.1
4.27	Booth Inds	41½	...	...	16.4
18.50	Bridport	82½	...	7.9	8.8
7,914.00	Br Aerospace†	452	-1½	1.5	17.5
2,158.10	Br Steel	108½	-6½	11.5	9.2
7.36	Brooke Ind	00½	+½	6.9	5.1
6.87	Brunel	7½	...	14	...
92.30	Bullough	77½	...	6.4	7.7
6.10	Carbo†	11½	-1½	11.3	55.7
66.50	Cardo Eng	113½	-3	12.1	5.7
85.00	Castings	195½	+1	3.7	10.7
15.60	Chamberlin Hill	202½	+10	6.0	7.3
282.60	Charter	293½	-19	10.7	16.8
29.70	Chemring	125½	+½	3.0	...
21.40	Clyde Blowers	146½	+4	6.1	10.4
784.00	Cobham†	807½	+29½	2.1	19.4
1.70	Cohen (A)	145	...	...	...
771.00	Cookson†	111½	-8½	8.4	6.8
193.20	David Brown	287½	...	2.7	16.5
6.95	Eleco	18	...	1.8	7.8
8.92	Energy Tech	26	+2	7.2	...
6.61	Europower	11½	-1	9.6	7.5
72.30	Expamet†	113½	+3	4.5	6.5
723.60	FKI	127	-1	5.9	7.8
100.00	Fenner	103½	-8	5.4	...
3.81	Ferrum	2½	+½	...	17.8
14.00	Firth Hldgs	16½	-½	2.1	17.6
125.00	Firth Rixson	88	-18	4.3	6.9
7.22	Flare	8½	...	...	...
23.10	GEI Intl	60½	-5½	7.6	5.0
5.89	Gibbon Engl†	151	+3½	5.9	5.1
408.30	Glynwed†	167	-12	9.9	6.9
86.70	Haden MacLn	58½	-20	6.8	5.6
11.60	Hadleigh	155	-1½	6.8	7.8
53.90	Hall Eng	101	...	10.3	4.3
451.20	Halma	125	+2½	2.0	15.1
64.00	Hampson Ind	56	...	5.8	8.6
6.53	Hay (Norman)	43½	+2½	3.3	6.3
6.24	Headway†	38½	+2½	8.5	5.1
14.00	Hill & Smith	123½	-1	14.8	9.3
847.20	IMI	241½	-23	5.9	7.8
739.40	Johnson Mattn	339½	-6	6.2	7.3
2.44	Jones Shipman	9½	...	6.6	9.1
7.91	Kelsey Ind	255	+5	14.2	4.1
30.39	Lincat†	218½	+1½	4.9	9.1
15.40	Locker	19½	+½	6.5	5.8
5.07	MS Intl	18½	...	5.1	6.7
41.60	Mang Bronze†	235½	+25	5.6	12.1
339.20	McKechnie	318½	-35	8.2	7.1
66.80	McLeod Russel	186½	-2	8.3	7.6
292.90	Meggitt	130½	-20½	4.6	12.6
116.80	Metalrax	98½	-3½	5.8	12.5
4.63	MetalTech	3	...	...	45.4
46.20	Molins	130	+7½	14.4	...
739.60	Morgan Crucbl	319½	-7	6.2	10.8
28.10	Polyhedron	00	-½	6.5	11.3
115.20	Powerscreen	124	+5	3.1	...
61.90	Quadrant	169½	-½	7.1	9.0
2.68	Quadrant Grp	43½	...	...	...
0.68	Radiant Metal	50	...	...	...
115.40	Renold	167½	...	5.4	8.5
12.80	Richardson West	35½	-2	15.8	4.0
3,369.00	Rolls-Royce†	226	-13	3.4	18.0
284.10	Rotork	330	...	3.7	20.3
20.30	Robinson	230	...	3.0	13.7
457.40	SKF B	785½	-18½	6.5	7.6
353.00	Senior Engg†	116	-12½	3.8	7.8
51.20	Spring Ram	257½	-5	6.5	7.0
4,475.20	Siebe▼	213½	+3½	1.8	14.1
45.60	Six Hundred	81½	-3½	8.4	6.0
2,422.60	Smiths Ind†	784	-51	3.1	16.3
5.95	Solvera	8	+½	...	...
424.30	Spirax-Sarco†	529	-58½	3.8	20.3
76.00	Sterling Ind	258	+1½	5.5	8.4
1,643.20	TI	327	-50	5.0	10.4
22.00	Tasley (E)	69½	...	11.5	5.9
86.70	TransTec	46	...	7.8	5.6
385.20	TT Group	219½	-2½	5.2	8.0
235.90	Ulna Elect	383	-8	2.6	16.8
21.70	Utd Indst	48½	...	8.0	7.0
420.20	Vickers Grp	183½	+3½	6.4	17.4
16.00	Villiers Grp	8½	...	...	...
261.60	Vitec	536	+2½	3.4	8.0
237.30	Vosper Thorny	730	+1½	4.9	16.8
114.20	Wagon	217½	-4½	6.3	4.6
385.80	Weir	193½	-16½	5.6	6.8
21.00	Wellington Hldg†	92½	+2	11.2	7.6
22.20	Wescot†	37½	-2½	5.9	...
192.70	Wolstan	780	...	2.6	18.6
4.05	Whitney	83½	...	13.1	3.7

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
66.18	Anasco	79½	-3½	6.6	5.9
11.30	Airflow Stream†	133	+3	7.5	12.2
117.70	Avon Rubber	425	+15	5.1	0.4
31.90	Boxter	187½	+5	5.1	8.4
353.30	Brinart	118	-1	3.4	12.1
265.00	Dennis	470	...	2.0	27.5
156.20	First Tech	327½	+4½	1.9	19.8
4,871.30	GKN	657	-75	2.3	15.7
26,687.10	General Mtr†	4075	+70½	2.9	...
248.60	Henlys	450½	+6	4.5	11.8
19,815.90	Honda Motor	2033½	...	0.4	14.8
196.16	Laird	137½	-11½	10.4	4.5
2,804.40	LucasVarity†	198½	-9½	3.0	12.0
334.00	Mayflower†	130	-11	2.8	11.7
25.50	Sylvan	105	-1½	8.2	8.9
12.60	Tod	21½	...	...	...
117.70	Toronit	102½	-1	...	...
43.40	Watson	46½	+1	2.7	13.4

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,697.00	Ass Food	633	+63	1.8	21.1
56.30	Acatos & Hutch	128½	-16½	8.3	...
54.00	Albert Fisher	7½	...	30.8	6.5
19.50	Banks (S C)	207	-10	6.9	9.7
85.50	Barr (AG)	440½	+5½	4.8	9.3
16.16	Benson Crsp	34½	-3	6.1	7.3
169.90	Booker†	68½	-00½	7.7	3.8
356.90	Brake Bros	685	+20	2.1	16.7
14.50	CPL Aromas	111	+3½	5.4	9.4
9,011.80	Cadbury-Schwp†	887	-16	2.1	23.2
6.40	Cars Milling	01	+16½	7.9	...
1,397.60	Coca-Cola Bev	121	-14	...	...
36.00	Cranswick	254½	+16	5.9	9.6
380.80	Dairy Crest Group	335½	+21½	4.2	12.2
41.30	Daniels S	36½	-2	2.4	11.3
450.00	Devro	282½	-24	4.2	12.4
489.50	Express Dairies	164	+24½	0.4	12.0
79.48	Finlay (James)	79	...	5.8	5.6
323.30	Geest	443½	-30	3.1	17.1
18.90	Glanbia	12½	...	7.0	22.4
482.50	Greencore	252	-3	3.5	13.9
322.30	Hazlewood Fds	137½	-2½	6.6	10.2
334.50	Hillsdown	91½	-2	3.1	...
60.50	Linton Park	344	...	8.4	4.8
131.90	Matthews (B)	100	+1½	0.3	19.2
6.67	MI	15½	+3	2.9	6.3
58.70	Nichols (V)	156½	...	8.4	8.4
1,045.10	Northern Foods	175	-2½	4.6	15.9
274.80	PIC Intl	93½	+19½	6.4	6.7
0.69	Pascos	21½	...	...	...
172.00	Perkins Food	136½	+2	3.4	14.4
21.60	Plant O Gen	40½	-1	...	...
4.70	Senty Farm	63½	...	5.9	...
12.80	Sims Food	21	+4	...	7.5
1,587.80	Tate & Lyle	350	-23	4.9	7.9
212.00	Terranova	116½	-1½	4.3	12.9
12.50	Treat	122½	...	6.2	6.8
1,298.90	Unigate	523½	+6	5.3	11.2
30,544.30	Unilever	630	+21	1.7	25.8
29,198.50	Unilever (NV)	4559½	-3½	1.6	11.6
1,184.00	Utd Biscuits†	251	+8	5.7	17.1
42.40	WT Foods	52½	...	3.6	17.5

HEALTHCARE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
27.50	AdvancedMedicalA	44½	-2	...	...
1,488.80	Alnce UniChem†	515	-27	2.4	21.8
22.50	Assoc Nursg	145	-5	3.4	13.8
219.70	Bespak	855	+20	2.6	21.6
130.20	Biocompat Intl	123½	+31½	...	...
93.80	Care UK	202½	+12	6.8	21.8
32.40	Celsis	3½	-½	...	...
152.70	Community Ht	432½	+1	3.8	14.4
59.80	CrestaCare	21½	...	4.0	17.4
2.99	Enviromed	10	...	...	46.2
19.50	Ferraris Group	120½	+4½	3.0	12.1
41.80	Gyrus	134	...	...	...
117.30	Huntleigh Tec	235	+15½	1.7	25.4
16.50	Intercare Gp	58	-3	0.6	18.5
64.60	Isotron	512½	...	1.7	15.6
684.70	Ion Intl	197½	-11	1.6	30.7
300.30	Nestor Hlth	388½	+3½	1.3	36.2
2,454.60	Nycomed Amsh▼	380	-19	1.3	21.2
6.43	Premier Health#	5½	...	...	...
1.60	Regina	5½	+½	...	...
902.50	Seton Scholl	853	+30	1.5	...
115.30	Shield Diag	565	-45	...	...
17.90	Sinclair Mont	101½	-1	0.3	36.9
1,892.80	Smith & Nephew†	186½	+7½	3.7	16.7
13.20	Tanovra	38½	+5½	11.7	...
182.30	West Hilltcare	274½	+11	3.2	20.1

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
17.10	Airsprung	71½	-1	12.9	3.7
62.00	Alba	169½	...	4.8	9.1
2.00	Albion	5½	...	7.9	6.1
36.30	Alexandra†	107½	...	6.1	7.6
68.20	Allied Textile	98	-½	11.1	8.2
4.03	Armour	10	...	2.5	...
12.30	BLP Group	105	-2½	9.2	3.6
136.30	Baird (Wm)	118	+1	11.5	5.5
3.52	Bilston Bttrsea	38½	...	2.4	...
27.40	Black Arrow	112½	...	5.8	6.6
157.70	Black (Peter)	258	+1½	3.4	13.2
11.10	British Mohair	63½	...	6.0	...
6.98	Claremont Gar	18½	...	...	...
191.70	Coats Viyella	27½	...	9.7	...
30.90	Cornwell Prk Spt	74	-17½	5.8	4.9
176.30	Courtaulds Text	170	+21½	11.2	8.5
1.34	Creighton	6½	...	...	...
2.88	Dalkeith	2½	+½	14.4	...
33.10	Dawson	16½	-1½	8.2	...
32.20	Denby Group	95	-6	8.2	6.9
128.20	Dewhirst	97	+5	7.0	6.8
2.56	Drummond Group	12	...	5.2	25.6
36.20	Eclipse Blinds	86½	...	5.4	7.3
2.29	Ebtel	18	+1	8.3	3.7
10.40	FII Group	46	-2½	13.9	3.2
2.92	Fasset Trading	25	...	18.4	5.8
1.28	Foster (J)	11½	...	...	...
4.65	French	32½	...	...	...
18.00	Gaskell	90½	+10½	3.8	5.5
1.80	Higgens (J)†	57½	...	7.8	...
24.80	Hartstone Group	10	...	2.0	11.2
28.50	Hicking Pentecost	00	-4	11.9	5.4
3.02	Hollas Group#	2½	...	...	...
1.18	Honeysuckle Grp#	14	...	...	...
22.10	Horace Small	64½	+½	...	...
143.20	IWP Intl	202½	...	3.1	9.1
3.98	Jacques Vert	13	...	...	...
25.10	Jones Stroud	145	+2½	10.4	5.7
15.30	Jourdan (T)	46½	+1	3.4	...
56.70	Kenwood App	123½	...	8	16.0
21.50	Lambert Howarth	155	-14	7.3	5.8
16.90	Lamont Hldgs†	58	-5½	28.8	3.6
18.80	Leeds Group	51½	-1	17.8	3.7
3.24	Leslie Wise	9½	+½	14.3	...
3.65	Lowland	4½	-1	11.8	3.7
3.22	Lyles (S)	40	+1	8.2	4.4
277.60	McBride†	157	+3	6.8	10.6
19.00	Mayborn	81	+½	11.0	7.5
21.70	Osborne & Little	351	-10	0.3	6.5
4.60	PEX Group	2½	...	3.6	...
4.86	Parkland Group	29	-½	6.4	...
93.90	Paterson Zch†	365	+7	8.0	...
78.20	Paterson Zch A†	340	+7	6.8	7.5
320.70	Pentland Group	93	+2½	5.0	13.8
33.70	Pifco	185	...	4.1	9.5
7.52	Pittards	34½	-½	12.7	...
53.10	Readicut Intl	25½	...	12.6	...
3,663.00	Reckitt Colmn†	900	-103½	2.7	17.7
67.50	Relyon	302½	-1	5.4	5.9
2.46	Richards	18½	...	...	...
53.60	Royal Doulton	95	-3	13.2	8.5
3.81	SEET	23½	...	...	11.7
42.70	Sherwood Group†	38½	...	11.7	18.1
7.53	Silbch	125½	+14	4.3	65.1
67.50	Slemingbirst	187	...	6.0	7.1
31.20	Sirdar	57	-1½	12.4	5.9
20.20	Stirling Group	23	-5	13.6	4.2
4.81	Stoddard Intl	7½	-½	6.5	...
24.40	Stoves	92½	-2½	8.6	8.4
7.80	Swallowfield	68	-8½	12.5	4.2
8.38	Tomkinsons	131	-3	11.1	6.5
7.38	Usher (F)	107	...	12.9	3.3
4.83	Victoria	70	...	8.2	6.5
35.30	Vymura	70½	-9½	8.8	5.7
20.40	Walker Greenbk	53½	-½	5.0	10.8
366.20	Waterford Wdgwd†	50	-4½	2.5	14.1
6.16	Wassent	00	...	7.9	6.3
2.80	Wood (Arthur)	140	...	5.4	11.8
8.79	Yorklyde†	78½	...	6.1	21.2

INSURANCE

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
11,075.90	Allied Zurich	705	-16	1.5	0.5
10,523.00	Am Gen	4166½	+81½	2.2	...
344.70	Amlin	113½	+7	12.2	7.1
5,697.90	Aon Corpn†	3330½	+68½	2.0	...
184.00	Benfield & Rea	121	+10½	8.8	13.3
28.30	Bradstock	44	-1½	13.6	...
2,398.70	Britannic	1230	-30	3.6	6.6
11,885.70	CGU†	908	-13	3.7	20.5
109.10	CLM Insce	125	-1	75.1	8.1
66.30	Charles Taylor†	218	+2	2.7	20.4
369.80	Countrywide As	108	...	3.5	10.9
459.30	Cox Insce†	339½	+6	1.2	20.1
181.80	Dom & Genl	530	+27½	2.0	18.1
27.30	Euclidian	128½	...	14.8	3.8
158.60	FBD IE	384½	-4½	2.6	14.1
2,473.70	GRE†	281	-11	4.8	4.4
254.90	Hibernian IE	654½	+24½	2.0	12.8
262.10	Hiscox	182½	-6	2.3	31.8
537.00	Independent	229	-55	1.0	6.8
1,577.00	Irish Life†	498	-3½	2.8	14.6
389.20	Jardine Lyd Tht	205½	-14½	6.4	12.5
82.60	Lambert Fen	91½	-7½	7.7	7.2
6,458.70	Legal & Gen	662	-31	2.8	19.1
2,575.80	Liberty Life	1066½	-75	3.3	11.3
513.80	Lmt	173	+2½	5.1	3.9
746.50	Londn & Man	001½	...	5.1	24.7
7,516.10	Marsh McLnt	3400	-106½	2.9	...
41.70	Mastcmill	103½	...	28.1	6.5
41.16	New London Cap	68½	-½	12.8	7.5
7,947.20	Norwich Union†	415	-4	3.6	14.2
46.20	Octavian	85	+1	6.6	...
3.81	Premium Trust	43	...	4.1	27.2
15,921.40	Prudential†	819	-10	2.4	31.9
3.81	PWS	15½	...	6.0	3.5
7,536.00	Royal & Sun All†	482½	-18½	4.9	14.1
984.00	St James Place	237½	+5	0.8	22.1
1,244.20	Sedgwick	204½	...	3.1	...
18.80	Steel Burrill	25	-3	7.5	79.5
4,046.90	Sun Life & P†	499	-16	3.1	21.7
131.40	SVB	147½	+6½	9.6	10.2
1,971.10	Utd Assurance	570	+2½	4.8	9.6
232.30	Wellington	191½	+3	4.2	11.6
051.20	Willis Corroon	208	+½	4.2	23.3
8.00	Windsor	12	+½	6.2	...
63.40	Wren	140	+6	5.1	0.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3,183.20	3i	535	+10	2.4	28.6
21.90	Aberdeen Emg Ec	43½	...	...	...
76.16	Aberdeen High Inct	120½	+½	6.0	...
40.60	Abrdn New Dawn	00	+½	2.2	50.6
151.16	Abrdn Smlr	182½	+1½	4.8	20.3
6.51	Abrdn Sm Wts	95	...	...	...
1,379.70	Alliance	2737½	-00	2.9	41.8
153.70	Anglo & Overs	660	+7½	1.9	59.4
9.60	Asst Opps	69	+1	2.9	30.5
33.40	BFS Inc & Grth	84	...	15.5	9.3
47.70	BFS Inc & Grth IT	120	+½	10.8	13.9
76.20	BFS Inc & Gth ZPf	95½	...	...	...
15.70	Baillie Gifford SN	49½	-1	...	...
361.40	Bankers	232	-8	3.1	90.6
90.60	Barings Em Eu	75½	-1	...	...
402.40	Br Assets	124½	-3½	4.8	...
185.10	Br Empire Sec	97½	-2½	1.4	...
22.70	Brazilian	36½	-1½	2.2	30.0
189.40	Brunner	256	-5	2.3	46.4
11.80	Cairngorm Dem	83	-1	4.5	35.0
185.90	Candover	017½	-1½	3.3	33.6
46.18	Centrl Euro Grth	37½	-3	...	...
354.80	Chart European	408	-17½	1.7	...
60.30	City Merch HY	192	-9	6.7	14.9
500.90	City of Lon	238½	-7½	3.5	32.8
5.73	Dome Inv Inc	78½	+1	13.1	19.1
79.80	Derby Cap	520	-5	...	...
14.90	Derby Inc	122½	-1½	17.0	3.0
19.50	Dresdner RCM Emg	67½	-½	...	...
17.00	Dres RCM Smlr	135	-1½	2.8	51.1
315.00	Dunedin Inc G	196½	-4½	3.6	31.1
40.50	Dunedin Smlr	294½	-7½	4.5	25.0
103.50	Edin Dragon	43½	-2	...	...
11.90	Edinburgh Inca	14½	...	...	...
1,216.30	Edinburgh IT†	414	-8½	3.3	28.6
28.70	Edin Japan	77½	-3½	...	...
427.70	Edin US Trk	511	-7	1.2	...
895.00	Electra Inv	517½	-1½	2.5	36.5
255.90	Eng & Scot	145½	-2½	3.2	31.5
122.30	European Asset	480½	-6	1.8	...
57.10	Fidelity Asian Val	59½	-1½	...	66.5
171.70	Fidelity Euro Val	286½	-16	0.2	...
28.40	Fidelity Jap Val	27	-1½	...	...
44.50	Fidelity Spec Valt	121	-4½	1.0	...
33.40	Finsbury A	308½	...	2.4	...
77.70	Finsbury Gwth	169	-8½	2.8	...
0.02	Five An Wts	1	...	...	...
393.00	Fleming Amer	561	-18	0.5	...
72.40	Fleming Asian	42½	-1	...	...
2.68	Fleming Asian Wts	8½	-1	...	...
23.16	Fleming Chinese	35½	-½	1.7	...
1.92	Fleming Ch Wts	18	-1	...	...
259.10	Fleming Claverf	424	-4	2.0	58.6
348.70	Fleming Conti	534	-23	0.7	...
80.50	Fleming Em Mkts	63½	-2	...	...
62.50	Flem Gbl Gth Ord	386	+½	1.1	...
26.70	Flem Gbl Grs Prf†	157½	...	10.3	...
112.20	Fleming Inc Capt	121½	+½	6.7	18.6
86.50	Fleming Ing Inc	111½	-1½	11.4	16.1
109.00	Fleming Ing Cap	273	-10	...	...
32.50	Fleming Indian	35½	+½	...	...
1.34	Fleming In Wts	6	-½	...	...
261.40	Fleming Japan	133½	-2	...	...
469.80	Fleming Merc	326	-9½	4.2	29.5
109.00	Fleming Mid Cap	272½	-8	2.4	58.0
29.40	Fleming Nat Resf	71½	+1	0.6	...
505.30	Fleming Overs	380½	-8	1.0	...
34.20	Fleming Smlr Cot	128	-4½	2.8	48.5
39.40	Fleming US Discy	213	-5	8.4	...
1,844.50	Foreign & Col	175½	-7½	1.7	61.4
40.10	F&C Inc Grth	106½	-1½	4.3	21.4
60.80	F&C Emg Mkts	43	-2½	...	...
243.90	F&C Enterprise	259½	+½	1.9	56.2
217.70	F&C Eurotst	422½	-18	0.8	...
60.90	F&C Latin Amer	73½	-2½	...	...
245.30	F&C Pacific	108½	-1½	2.2	55.6
91.50	F&C PEP	133	-2½	3.7	33.8
100.30	F&C Smaller	172½	-2½	2.2	44.3
77.80	F&C US Smlr	153	-½	...	...
26.60	Framlin Inc	60	-1½	6.9	11.3
28.40	Framlin Cap	114½	-7	...	...
3.90	Framl Dual Cp	111½	-25	...	...
7.70	Fulcrum Cap	48½	-2	...	...
1.09	Fulcrum Inc	9½	...	148.8	8.9
17.10	Fulcrum Zero	190½	+½	...	...
65.60	Gartmore Britt	320	+½	3.7	34.6
114.60	Gartmore Eurot	297	-11	8.5	...
42.00	Gartmore Shrd	123½	+1½	10.1	12.3
41.30	Gmore Smlr Cos	287	-8	2.8	46.7
36.00	Geared Inc Ordt	90	-½	9.8	10.3
34.00	Geared Inc Inct	54½	-½	10.2	6.8
	Geared Inc 0 Pl	110½			
24.00	Gov Asn Smr Cos	84	-2½	1.1	...
18.40	Gov Emg Mts	61½	-2½	1.2	67.2
42.80	Govett High Inc	89½	+1½	7.8	...
355.50	Govett Strategic	262	-7½	2.7	34.2
1.29	Gresham House	20½	...	1.5	2.3
66.30	GT Inc Growth†	123	-1½	3.5	27.1
84.18	GT Japan	134½	-5½	...	...
28.90	Gart Fl Eu Inc	133½	+8	7.5	...
27.20	Henderson Am Cp	72½	...	...	...
8.70	Henderson Am Inc	117	+½	8.3	12.0
3.06	Henderson Am Wt	40½	...	...	...
284.60	Hend Eur Gen	315	-2	1.8	64.8
57.50	Hend Far East	102½	-3½	8.4	...
88.00	Hend Gmtrust#	570	...	1.7	71.5
00.30	Hend High Inc	162	-7	5.2	22.1
29.50	Hend Jap Smlr	29½	-2	...	...
254.00	Hend Smk	215½	-4½	2.3	69.6
82.10	Hend Strata	469½	-8½	8.1	...
102.20	Hend TR Pac	49½	-1½	0.0	72.3
160.80	Hend Tech	109½	-2½	...	...
138.00	Herald	165½	-7	8.6	...
40.70	High Income 1	112	...	7.8	14.4
104.40	H Govett Smrt	123½	-1½	3.8	...
38.30	IAS UK Smlr	131½	-3½	2.8	44.5
460.10	Inv Cap	186	-1	4.0	...
33.00	Inv Biotech	37½	-1½	...	...
0.08	Inv Biotec Wts	1	...	...	...
44.20	INVESCO Asia	39½	-4	2.1	37.0
116.40	INVESCO Eng Int	132	-9½	1.3	41.8
7.67	INVESCO Jap Dis	27½	-2	...	...
12.40	INVESCO Korea	37½	-1½	...	...
27.80	INVESCO Tokyo	24½	-1	...	...
54.60	JF Fledg Jap	89½	-2	...	...
20.80	J Fry Euro U	195	-5	3.8	28.4
80.80	J Fry Util	132½	...	3.3	15.7
53.40	J Fry Util Inc	92½	-1½	7.7	65.1
40.60	Jupiter Ex Inc	133½	-½	7.5	15.7
1.71	Jupiter Ex Inc Wt	28½	+1	...	...
14.30	Jupiter Grd Cap	102	...	11.3	10.0
75.30	Jupiter Grd Pfd	43½	-3½	...	...
33.60	Jupiter Intl Grn	133½	+1	3.4	...
42.10	Jupiter Prims	785	...	11	...
54.10	Kiwi End	180½	+2	...	...
84.00	Korea Euro	136½	-7½	0.9	...
246.50	Law Debenture	1071	-25½	3.4	28.3
37.50	Life Of Opp	120½	-7	...	...
25.00	Lloyds Sm Cap	102	-2½	...	...
3.74	Lloyds Sm Div	15½	...	...	3.5
28.80	Lloyds Sm Pfg	117½	-2	4.7	...
60.50	Lon St Lawrence†	184½	-5½	4.3	33.9
78.20	Lowland	331½	-4½	4.5	...
00.00	M&G 2nd Dual Cp#	800	...	...	...
5.00	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50	...	...	1.6
85.16	M&G Inc Geared	84½	+1½	8.9	15.2
140.50	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	60½	+½	...	...
56.70	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	23	+½	...	3.9
242.70	M&G Inc Package	165½	+1	4.5	...
207.60	M&G Inc Zero Div	84½	...	...	...
52.20	M&G Rec Cap	38½	...	...	...
86.00	M&G Rec Geared	84½	+1	11.5	...
32.00	M&G Rec Inc	24½	-½	30.3	4.4
199.20	M&G Rec Pacge	177½	+½	4.2	...
158.90	M&G Rec Zero Div	118	+1½	...	...
50.40	M Currie Euro	180	-1	6.8	...
14.60	M Currie Japan	67	-2	...	...
37.16	M Currie Pac	90½	-3½	2.6	35.2
166.40	Majedie	311	+1½	2.6	40.2
388.20	Merchants†	379½	-15	4.9	35.5
679.00	Mercury Euro Pv	141½	-5½	2.4	33.6
65.80	Mercury Eur Wt	57½	-2½	...	...
227.70	Mercury World	60½	+½	1.7	63.9
568.60	Monks Inv Tst	734	-35	1.7	60.0
63.90	Morg Grcn Inc	183½	-3	5.0	...
4.14	Morg Wts	85½	...	...	...
31.70	Morg Lain Amer	49½	+½	1.0	71.5
1.89	Morg Wts	14½	+½	...	...
21.90	Murray Ent	90½	...	4.4	...
0.37	Murray Ent Wts	7½	-1½	...	...
18.80	Murray Emg Eco	34½	-½	2.8	42.5
8.71	Murray Em Ec Wt	5½	...	...	...
295.30	Murray Income	407½	-½	4.3	31.2
495.00	Murray Intl	417	-4½	4.4	27.8
120.70	Murray Smaller	327	...	2.4	39.3
45.18	Murray Ventures II	63	-1	...	...
13.70	Natwest Ent	305	...	2.5	40.1
0.91	Newmarket	2½	...	...	...
53.00	Pacific Assets	40½	-½	1.2	...
41.40	Perpetual Euro	115	-3½	0.5	...
213.00	Perp Inc Gth	121	-3½	3.7	26.2
10.10	Perpetual Jap	27½	-1½	...	...
41.40	Perpt Uk Sm Co	293½	-5	3.6	37.5
36.40	Personal Assets†	6182	+100	1.1	...
67.60	ProHilk Inc	129	-5	4.4	28.2
576.90	RIT Cap Ptnr	317	-3	0.8	...
7,485.70	Robeco N/V	6408½	-195½	1.8	69.3
3,486.60	Rolinco N/V	5487½	-78½	0.9	...
62.00	Schrd Asia Pac	44½	-1	1.4	...
43.30	Schrod Emg Cal	44½	-2½	...	...
107.10	Schrod Inc Gwth	132	-3½	4.4	24.5
62.20	Schrod Jap Gwth	49½	-2½	...	...
13.90	Schrod Korea	210½	-7½	...	...
13.20	Schrod Splt Cap	46½	-4	...	...
69.10	Schrod Splt Inc	122	-1	8.8	14.6
63.60	Schrod Splt Zero	160½	...	...	...
294.00	Schrod UK Gwth	126½	-7½	3.5	30.4
152.80	Schrod Vent Intl†	163½	-5	1.8	78.4
835.30	Scot	830	-17½	2.2	62.5
436.30	Scot American	190	-2	3.3	33.5
20.50	Scot Asset	109½	-3½	0.9	69.9
723.90	Scot Eastern	114½	-2	2.3	44.8
1,195.70	Scot Mtgs	331½	-15½	2.0	55.1
51.10	Scot Value	109½	+4½	2.6	...
468.10	Second Alliance	2427½	-70	2.6	41.3
351.00	Secs Tst of Scot	109½	-2	4.3	26.7
37.20	Shires Smlr	139½	-1	5.7	21.8
36.90	Smaller Cos	123	-5½	5.5	27.0
108.40	St Andrew Inv	215	-2½	3.8	32.8
309.00	Temple Bar	536½	-8	4.2	27.2
204.30	Throgmorton	67½	-1½	4.4	29.7
422.50	Templeton Emg Mkt	89½	-1½	1.5	62.7
313.40	TR Euro Growth	197½	-8½	0.2	...
177.80	TR Property	37½	-½	3.7	28.1
47.20	TR Tech Inv#	400	...	0.8	32.0
114.40	Tribune	577	+3	1.8	58.3
120.80	Undervalued Ast	126½	-1½	2.3	31.1
56.70	Value Inc Tst	132½	-½	5.1	32.2
122.20	Value Real	132½	-2	1.2	...
30.30	Watamis O Val	38½	+½	...	...
15.50	Wigmore	78½	...	1.1	...
1,272.30	Witan	339	-9	2.7	41.9
15.40	Yeoman Inc	62½	+½	...	4.0

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.47	ABI Leis#	13½	...	...	...
1,877.80	Airtours	394½	-6	2.3	20.6
34.50	Ald Leist	20	+2½	4.7	8.8
23.50	Arena Leis	12½	...	...	25.1
80.40	Aston Villa	705	+7½	1.6	10.2
8.91	BS Group	135	...	4.6	...
83.30	Bosley Holes	425	...	3.8	24.6
20.70	Burndene	27½	-1	16.3	6.6
63.60	Capital Corp	62½	-5½	8.0	8.5
90.00	Celtic	216	+75	...	13.7
73.90	Clubhaus	73	+1½	...	19.8
136.80	Eidos	800	-25	...	7.5
152.30	EMC	158	+½	...	...
38.60	Eurocamp	215	+18½	0.3	7.6
686.50	Euro Disney	90	...	...	...
26.70	Euro Leisure†	77½	+1½	7.1	6.3
334.80	First Choice	98	-½	3.7	14.8
357.80	First Leisure	217	+16½	5.3	11.5
21.70	Friendly Hotels†	96½	...	7.6	7.2
1,800.20	Granada	860	-16	2.2	16.2
12.70	Hi-Tec Sports	25	-1	7.5	4.6
135.90	Holmes Place	201	+15½	2.8	73.3
15.70	Hornby	185	...	4.7	8.7
50.80	Hozelock	211½	+1½	6.7	12.1
192.70	Jarvis Hotels	108½	-2	5.1	6.6
203.80	Jurys Hotel	460	+½	2.0	15.3
50.42	Kunick	22½	...	4.4	10.7
2,722.30	Ladbroke†	228	-8	3.1	15.0
188.00	London Clubs	128	-½	6.8	9.4
81.20	Macdonald Hts	136½	-6	4.5	9.4
562.50	Man Utd†	216½	+½	1.0	55.9
248.90	Marcain Ornd	35½	-3½	3.2	14.6
554.70	Millennium & Cop	382½	-21	2.9	14.1
10.30	Mimtel Hdgs	1	...	...	...
134.80	Newcastle Utd†	84	+9	2.3	...
129.00	Northern	104½	-3	6.9	11.6
6.31	Pricin Leisure	72½	+5	11.8	6.7
25.40	Queensborough	20½	-½	2.8	7.0
78.30	Queens Moat	30½	+2	...	3.2
1,958.80	Rank Grp†	254½	-10½	8.4	9.5
94.30	Regal Hotel	32½	+½	5.1	6.4
44.00	Ryan Hotels Ir£	61½	-2	3.9	18.4
13.20	Sheffield United	26½	...	...	...
28.20	Sinclair (Wm)†	135	-2½	9.1	8.7
12.50	Southampton	47½	-1½	2.6	...
704.10	Stakis	61½	-8	3.7	12.1
298.80	Stanley Leisure	266½	...	2.2	17.8
3.53	Tandem	3½	...	...	...
1,300.10	Tanjong#	346	...	7.0	33.4
774.70	Thistle Hotels†	125½	-2½	4.3	16.8
1,400.00	Thomson Travel	140	-70	2.5	18.2
72.00	Tottenham Hott	71½	+2	1.8	...
181.80	Vardon	134	+8	2.3	17.3
23.30	Waterfall	59½	-1	5.3	10.6
198.16	Wembley	307½	+3½	1.6	7.9
6.27	Zetters Gp	114	-2½	12.1	6.3

MEDIA

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
233.10	Abbott Mead	318	...	2.8	19.0
25.60	Adscene	120	+½	8.9	18.7
787.00	Aegis Gp	85½	...	0.9	22.1
6.59	Aspen Grp	43½	+2½	7.4	...
116.30	Atlantic Telecom	137½	+1	...	...
36.30	Barbour Index	210	+15	6.2	17.2
6.72	Black (A&C)	420	+40	4.2	14.8
32.90	Border TV	314	...	3.1	25.1
64.00	Bristol	392½	-2½	5.4	9.6
66.70	Bell Abcroft	249	-8½	11	29.4
8,446.20	BSkyB	489½	+14½	1.5	36.4
415.50	Capital Radio	561½	+28½	3.8	...
2,816.00	Carlton Comms	429½	-18½	3.8	12.8
55.20	Character Grp	268½	+12	2.2	11.1
54.20	Chime Commct	44½	+1½	6.5	11.0
203.40	Chrysalis	650	...	0.5	...
6.40	City of Lon	79	+1½	9.7	11.7
12.70	Copyright Proms	00	...	...	...
231.10	Cordiant Comms	184	-1½	1.2	17.2
117.50	Daily Mail	2350	...	1.3	22.4
2,197.80	Daily Mail A	2200	-18½	1.4	27.0
248.40	Dialog	163½	+½	...	...
172.10	Dorling Kndt	240	+½	2.0	26.3
59.10	Dudley Jenkins	425	-27½	1.9	...
2,333.20	EMAP	1110	+63	7.7	24.7
2,770.70	EMI	352½	-10½	4.5	11.8
5,193.70	Elsevier	778½	-100½	3.8	52.0
411.80	Euromoney Pb	1887½	...	3.5	19.0
10.40	Fads	47½	...	1.9	7.6
861.70	Flextech	548½	-4	...	...
240.60	GWR Gp	219½	+18	2.1	20.9
44.60	Gearhouse Group†	245	+20	3.9	9.5
14.10	Goodwood	36	-½	2.8	11.1
84.00	HIT Enter▼	975	+3	8.2	...
13.90	Haynes Pub	201½	+2½	7.1	6.3
7.16	Highbury Hse	7½	-½	...	5.2
64.70	Hodder Hdline	240	-5	3.9	[illegible]
142.90	IBC	357½	-5	3.7	[illegible]
45.50	ITE Group	26	-½	[illegible]	[illegible]
53.16	Incepta	12½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
497.16	Independent	199½	-23	4.1	14.0
4.36	Intercare	39	-4	5.9	[illegible]
411.80	Johnston Press	205½	-1	[illegible]	[illegible]
111.70	LLP Group†	231½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
24.50	Lopex	45	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
104.10	Maiden†	255	[illegible]	[illegible]	16.6
7.84	MeraMax	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
119.20	Metal Bulletin	1125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
666.80	Mirror Grp	149½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6,012.16	News Corp	210½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5,475.70	News Corp Pref	357	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
467.16	Newsquest	246	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.16	Osprey Comms	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6,090.00	Pearson	1059	-35	2.5	23.6
20.60	Phonelink	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
113.40	Portsmouth Sund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11.80	Quarto	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5,319.60	Reed Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8,854.40	Reuters	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
271.90	Saatchi	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
429.90	Scot Med	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
134.80	Scot Radio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5.16	Shandy Kids	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
167.70	Southern News	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.7	11.5
73.70	Southnews	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.7	12.0
9.46	Sterling Pub	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.6	[illegible]
16.16	Tarsus	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
349.30	Taylor Nelson	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.4	[illegible]
53.00	Television Co	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.3	[illegible]
11.20	Tempus Gp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7,562.80	Thomson Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.9	25.9
638.30	Trinity	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
00.80	Ulster TV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15.1
3,250.00	United News	[illegible]	-14	[illegible]	[illegible]
46.00	VCI	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.4	16.9
6.61	VTR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2,566.16	WPP†	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.7
12.70	Wilmington	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MINING

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
995.40	Ang Am Coal	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]
4,508.00	Ang Am	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
613.70	Ang Am Gold	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1,080.30	Anglo Am Plat	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2,694.50	Anglogold	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11.00	Anglo Pac Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
51.50	Antofagasta	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
655.30	Ashanti	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.9	25.5
84.00	Aston	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]
14.70	Avoca	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2,329.10	Billiton	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.6	[illegible]
2.78	Bouchi	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.2	2.0
20.90	Bougainville	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
181.00	Central Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1.82	Cons Murchison	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3,377.20	De Beers	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.8	9.6
703.50	Driefontein	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15.7
16.20	Durban	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17.10	E Rand Prop	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
543.00	Eng China Cl	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.5	7.7
4.41	FS Dev	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
117.10	GFSA	[illegible]	[illegible]	16.3	[illegible]
329.20	Gencor	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
16.50	Greenwich R A	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
30.30	Harmony	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
454.30	Impala Plat	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.5	8.5
7.12	Kenmare Res	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
25.00	Kinross	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
505.60	Lonrho▼	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.6	12.6
5.05	Messina	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
554.40	MIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2,272.20	Minorco	[illegible]	-50	3.6	[illegible]
7.16	Minsaigh	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
961.50	Normandy	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.0	17.2
859.60	North	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5	19.9
3.53	Pegasus	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
223.10	RGC	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17.30	RJB	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.00	Rackwood	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
113.16	RandGold	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11.90	Reunion Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7,391.80	Rio Tinto	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]
4,705.30	Rio Tinto Ltd	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.1	16.4
6.44	St Barbara	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
16.10	St Helena	[illegible]	[illegible]	16.3	2.7
100.00	Sons Gwalia	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.1	5.2
211.40	Stern Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2,451.00	WMC	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.1	27.5
8.60	Wankie Coal Z	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.2	8.2
1.63	Water Hall	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
65.40	Watts Blake†	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.0	9.8
108.20	Zambia Copper	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

OIL & GAS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
249.20	Abbot Group	174	+5	2.0	28.2
6.17	Alliance Res	13	...	...	...
17.10	Amerex	23	...	...	...
24.60	Aus Oil & Gas	54½	-1½	2.8	16.1
1.42	Aviva Pet	4½	-1	...	...
833.90	Br Borneo	221½	-10	1.8	71.6
15,682.70	BG†	399	-4	6.6	33.9
53,897.40	Br Petroleum†	916	+9	5.2	29.7
12.20	Bula Resources	0½	...	...	...
221.30	Cairn Energy	130	-8½	...	53.0
5,236.60	Centrica	116	+6	...	...
	Clyde	45	-5½	...	...
6.82	Coplex Res	3½	...	...	...
72.20	Dana Pet	3½	...	...	...
63.30	Dragon Oil	19	...	...	68.5
4.54	Edin Oil & Gs	13	-½	2.9	...
44.00	Emerald Energy	4½	-2½	...	...
2,011.16	Enterprise	404	+19	5.0	...
61.50	Fortune	4½	...	...	21.1
312.30	Hardy Oil	197	+7½	0.7	...
13.50	JKX Oil & Gas	11	+1	...	...
107.00	KBC Adv Tech	228	+1½	2.1	30.6
1,719.00	LASMO	178	+8	1.3	...
1.63	Lasmo Uts	23	...	28.7	...
400.50	Monument	45½	-2	...	18.4
5,279.00	Norsk Hydro	2303½	-116½	2.6	13.7
281.90	Oil Search	92	+1½	...	...
48.20	Paladin Res	24	...	...	...
54.48	Perez	27½	+½	...	...
265.00	Premier	25½	+1½	3.0	8.4
501.80	Ranger	298½	-10½	...	7.4
62,111.40	Royal Dtch Fl	2886½	+59½	3.5	20.4
15,797.70	Schlumberger	3165½	-187½	1.4	...
36,270.70	Shell	354½	+14½	3.6	20.5
42.20	SOCO Intl	07½	-1	...	14.9
17,990.50	Total	7459½	-218½	1.9	...
20.30	XCL	195	-12½	...	...

OTHER FINANCIAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
147.70	Aberdeen Asset	100	...	5.0	21.8
2,783.80	AMVESCAP	425	-31	1.6	21.6
40.00	BWD	21½	...	3.2	12.8
2.63	Berry Brh	40	...	6.2	...
127.40	Bristch	214½	-7	...	...
112.70	Brewin Dolphin	360	...	3.5	13.2
588.00	Caledonia	705	+22	3.6	20.9
77.50	Cornelia	3100	...	1.5	4.7
632.30	Cattles	610½	-16	2.1	27.9
10.20	Christie	42½	-3½	4.4	9.1
617.80	Close Bros	506	-59	1.6	13.4
72.60	EFM	261	-15	12.0	9.3
21.40	Euro Sales Fin	232½	...	0.5	30.0
45.20	Fishers Intl	33½	+½	2.6	16.2
746.40	Friends Ivory Sime	140½	-4	6.5	14.3
343.30	Gerrard	324	+15	6.7	0.2
107.30	Hitachi Credt	282½	+13	2.8	16.6
88.10	Intercapital	24	-1	3.9	...
8.02	Investment Co.	215	...	2.5	13.1
1,304.60	Jardine Strat	107½	+½	0.3	8.0
15.20	Johnson Fry†	100	...	5.8	...
28.20	Leopold J	532½	...	4.8	20.6
1,511.20	Liberty Intl	486	-1	4.7	30.1
137.30	Lon Forfaiting	131	+1	11.7	11.7
128.20	London Pacific	182½	+8	6.5	6.6
157.00	Lon Scot Bk	123	-½	3.5	20.9
801.10	Man ED & F	300½	-14½	5.1	9.4
1,008.20	M & G	1342½	-200	4.0	20.0
177.00	Paragon	153½	...	2.3	6.1
794.00	Perpetual	2017½	-37½	3.1	17.2
2,451.80	Provident	935	-20	2.8	25.3
162.70	Rathbone Brs	515	...	3.9	17.1
21.70	Rea Brothers	44	...	3.0	7.6
158.10	Rutland Tst	52½	+4½	4.3	13.1
9.05	SEC Group	50	...	12.8	12.9
34.00	S & U	288½	+35	8.4	9.7
2,513.10	Schroders	1113	-48	1.8	16.1
643.16	Schroders N/V	932	-32	2.1	16.0
92.50	Sec Tst Bkg	612½	+2½	4.8	12.0
703.16	Singer & Fried	161½	-1½	8.9	6.6
6.93	Towry Law	445½	-3	...	...
3.13	Trio Hldgs	3½	...	...	...
18.00	Union	25	+½	...	...
201.30	Versailles Grp†	80½	+½	0.7	30.8
35.10	Winlrust	390	...	4.8	14.6

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
290.60	Br Biotech	44	+½	...	...
91.70	Cantab Pharms	270	+22½	...	...
331.80	Celltech	431½	+34	...	...
356.60	Chiroscience	319	+1	...	...
15.00	Core Group	51½	-4	...	...
21.50	Cortecs	32	-½	...	...
62,919.00	Glaxo Well	1825	-8	1.9	50.7
79.30	Goldshield	246½	...	0.6	21.6
10.30	KC Scrmcth	28	+½	...	...
57.70	LB Laboratories	60½	...	...	...
393.10	Medeva	116	-2	4.8	5.8
66.50	Oxford Molecular	76½	-11½	...	...
41.70	Pantoce Tra	115	-2½	...	...
47.00	Phytopharm	150	-½	...	...
230.00	Powderject	514	+65	...	...
29.90	Proteus Intl	39	-4½	...	...
6.33	Ransom (Wm)	44½	...	7.5	8.7
34.00	Oncrate Pharm	76½	+22	...	...
35.70	Scotia	126½	...	...	...
658.30	Shire Pharms	425½	-14	...	...
274.60	SkyePharma	68½	...	...	...
39,622.50	SmithKline†	711	-24	1.7	33.5
9.95	Therp Anti Inc	46½	...	...	...
66.40	Vanguard	207½	+2½	...	...
	Vanguard Wts	3	...	...	...
13.10	Xenova	45	-1½	...	...
21,894.10	Zeneca	2286	-17	2.1	29.7

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
109.80	API	375	-5	4.9	6.8
3.00	Ace Holo	139½	...	...	6.8
940.50	Arjo Wiggins	112	-12½	7.3	5.1
119.90	Bemrose†	277½	-87	7.5	6.7
1,259.50	Bowater Inc	2400	-203½	...	...
45.30	Boxmore Intl	174	+6	3.4	8.3
121.30	Br Polythene†	310½	...	8.2	7.5
256.20	Bunzl	256	+2	2.8	13.8
19.20	Cactal Indst	56½	...	9.2	...
16.10	Cropper (James)	191½	-5	3.5	18.7
596.50	De La Rue	176	-1½	7.9	6.8
63.40	Denton Pack	224½	-1	4.7	9.6
51.30	Ferguson Intl	52½	-1	...	...
59.20	Filofax	206½	...	2.5	21.6
14.00	Inveresk	27½	-4	26.3	15.5
51.20	Jarvis Porter	105½	-1½	9.0	5.4
34.10	LIGFisher	15½	...	4.9	6.1
105.40	Low & Bonar	187½	-5	9.1	6.1
5.89	Lowe (Robert)	45	...	7.8	1.7
95.50	MY Holdings	78½	-1	5.2	...
29.90	Macfarlane	63	+1½	9.0	6.4
132.40	Fairhaven	186½	-12½	0.8	21.1
28.80	Phoenix	162½	+4	6.4	11.2
5.40	Point Craftm	21	...	5.4	0.3
176.20	REXAM†	196½	-11	9.0	6.4
136.30	RPC	158½	+4	3.7	11.6
249.30	St Ives Grp	339½	-21	4.1	16.6
561.20	Sappi	250½	-3½	...	...
62.90	Sedon	91½	-10	3.4	10.5
229.20	Smith David	185½	-11½	9.1	8.8
1,146.30	Smurfit (Jeff)	104	-6½	4.2	...
1.80	Sonic	79	...	5.2	8.5
25.20	Waco	32½	-3½	...	...
220.10	Waddington	208	+2	6.9	8.5
94.20	Wyndeham	233½	-7½	3.6	11.6

PROPERTY

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
54.00	Allied Lon	78½	-½	6.1	7.9
96.20	Asda Prop	124½	+½	3.1	13.8
11.60	Ashquay Grp	34	-½	1.0	40.3
55.00	Aspenne Hldgs	136½	+½	4.8	14.4
174.90	Benchmark	745	...	3.0	11.5
269.70	Bilton	306½	-28	4.5	21.2
7.10	Birch	159½	-2½	7.1	6.5
1.18	Bolton Gp	2	...	...	...
29.50	Bourne End	38½	...	1.1	39.5
32.60	Bradford	216½	+8½	5.3	14.8
2,621.10	Br Land†	506	-16	2.3	27.8
485.20	Brixton†	201	+16	5.4	14.8
393.10	Burford	93	+1	3.3	29.2
128.30	CLS Hldgs†	111	-3	6.6	13.8
153.70	Cap & Regnl†	180	...	3.0	16.6
1,470.40	Cap Shop Ctrs	360	-12½	3.4	22.1
6.12	Cardiff Prop	246	...	1.8	34.7
14.70	Calthay Inv	54½	-½	...	...
887.60	Chelsfield	286½	-5	1.5	34.6
92.70	Chesterfield	381½	-2½	4.4	38.4
11.40	Clarendon Int	17	...	...	1.1
22.80	City North	105	+½	2.6	26.3
3.02	City Site Ests	18	...	...	...
26.90	Cleveland Tst	90	+3	8.6	16.7
37.50	CNC Propst	6½	...	4.8	8.5
62.30	Compco	185	...	3.0	15.2
173.60	Daejan	1065	...	4.9	18.0
3.09	Dares Estates	4	...	...	...
38.40	Debenham Invst	77½	...	5.6	7.7
152.70	Delancey Ests	100	-½	2.0	57.5
36.70	Dencora	196½	-2	3.7	12.1
250.00	Derwent Hldgs	472½	-5½	1.8	33.5
90.30	Development Sec	215½	-9½	1.8	16
26.40	Estates Agency	440	...	6.5	27.3
22.70	Estates Gen	71½	-1	1.7	20.2
127.00	Evans Of Leeds	95½	...	4.9	12.9
3.22	Fletcher King	37	-1	0.8	10.0
6.77	Folkes Group†	61	...	5.8	6.9
12.80	Folkes Group Nv†	58	...	6.1	5.6
205.00	Frogmore†	377	+7½	7.8	6.5
6.41	Golden Land Inv	9	...	...	...
70.20	Grainger	278½	...	3.4	13.4
743.50	Gt Portland	197	-2	5.7	19.7
370.90	Grosvenor	138½	+9½	1.3	40.4
144.70	Greycoat	133½	...	1.4	19.7
1,116.80	Hammerson†	387½	+16½	3.6	20.1
22.50	Hampton Trust	19	+1	...	...
88.80	Helical Bar	493½	-6½	2.3	9.1
47.00	Hemingway†	245½	-½	3.2	30.8
2,003.90	HK Land	77½	-14½	9.8	8.0
41.30	Jermyn	270	...	2.9	31.4
37.40	LSH†	147½	-3	4.5	8.4
24.20	Lands Imp	93½	+1	6.4	...
4,697.00	Land Secs	854	-1	4.1	25.0
15.90	Lon & Assoc	21	-½	5.4	8.6
242.50	Lon Merch Sec	108½	...	6.1	14.6
1,429.20	MEPC	415	-6	5.5	13.6
39.30	MWB Group†	71	-2	6.8	5.4
54.80	McKay Secs	125	...	4.9	16.8
11.40	Marrable Mtr	71	-2	4.4	5.2
98.30	Milner Est	221½	+10½	3.0	15.7
236.20	Minerva†	185	-4½	1.5	...
26.70	Moorfield Est	20	-½	3.6	17.6
81.20	Mountview	1768½	...	3.4	10.3
147.40	Muckow (A&J)	151½	...	6.4	15.8
211.00	NHP	158½	+1	8.1	18.0
2.30	OEM	31½	...	...	62.2
3.73	ORB	55½	...	...	24.6
420.20	Peel	545	-17½	1.9	...
412.00	Pillar Prop	248½	-9½	2.9	46.8
15.30	Primary Hm	82½	...	8.8	15.1
9.45	Probus Estates	5½	...	...	...
133.50	Quintain	145½	...	3.4	21.8
35.40	Raglan†	22½	+½	7.2	9.9
33.40	Regalian†	16	-1½	6.9	8.8
25.00	Rugby Est	136	-2½	2.7	3.9
75.50	St Modwen Prp	62½	+1	6.2	7.6
125.50	Savills Grdn	59½	+1½	6.6	17.6
53.70	Savills	100	-2	5.6	6.1
104.10	Scot Metr	79½	-1½	5.2	...
184.90	Shaftesbury	172	+2½	1.7	40.2
1,112.50	Slough Estates	287½	-5½	3.6	17.0
37.50	Smart (J)	272½	+5	4.8	...
423.20	TBI	95½	-2½	3.3	22.7
56.50	Trent Est	115	...	2.5	16.8
81.80	Town Centre	66	+2½	6.1	9.8
7.52	UK Land	00	...	5.3	0.3
109.00	Warner	214½	+6	7.6	14.2
90.30	Warnford	535	...	4.2	13.3
198.50	Wates	75	...	...	21.2
67.10	Workspace Grp	424½	...	5.0	15.2

RETAILERS, FOOD

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,965.50	ASDA Group	162½	-½	2.7	15.7
107.30	Budgens	63½	...	3.1	17.7
1,355.20	Dairy Farm Int	72	-½	5.1	13.1
85.50	Fasson	183½	+3½	4.1	12.0
344.70	Fyffes	116½	+4	2.3	13.6
299.80	Greggs	2512½	+75	1.6	20.0
391.90	Iceland Group†	217½	+13½	3.1	12.5
2,248.70	Morrison (W)	236	-5½	0.9	22.8
73.70	Park Group	45½	...	8.2	16.4
3,132.80	Safeway	283	-11	8.2	11.9
10,138.90	Sainsbury J†	530	-16	3.3	16.5
2,096.40	Somerfield	439	+14	3.2	14.0
198.60	7 & S Stores†	275½	-½	4.6	14.3
11,814.90	Tesco▼	178½	+2½	2.8	29.3
141.60	Thorntons†	214½	+6	3.7	15.6
84.00	Watson & Philip	190	-23½	12.6	5.1

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
35.20	A de Gruchy	230	...	4.8	13.0
131.20	Alexon	223½	+9½	...	12.0
70.90	Alldays	101½	...	18.3	5.0
47.00	Allied Carpets	52	+5½	16.6	0.6
510.00	Arcadia Group	776	-18½	5.6	8.4
58.70	Ashley (Laura)	14½	+½	...	...
33.40	Austin Reed†	106½	-1½	6.6	6.8
24.30	Beale	114½	-6	5.3	7.4
81.00	Beattie (J)	141	+½	8.7	9.1
32.80	Bentalls	70½	-2	6.1	8.8
00.90	Blacks Leis	256½	+20	2.8	8.8
172.70	Body Shop†	89	-11½	6.6	9.1
8,885.80	Boots	870	+0	3.9	23.5
122.90	Brown & Jackson	74½	+5	...	13.7
416.16	Brown (N)	285	...	3.4	13.1
143.70	Carpetright	184	-5½	14.9	7.1
31.30	Church	282	-3	7.7	7.6
92.70	Clinton Cards	135	+1	3.0	12.3
50.80	Country Cdnr	189	-3½	1.3	16.2
168.60	Courts Furnsh	275	+1½	1.9	10.3
209.00	DFS Furniture†	201	-3	9.0	6.1
1,431.80	Debenhams	379	-9	3.5	15.0
2,609.50	Dixons Grp	602½	-28	2.6	16.3
232.70	Elec Boutique	67½	+2	0.3	24.9
5.66	Ell4 Gp	4½	...	...	2.8
1.35	Essex Furn#	1½	...	...	2.6
6.22	Falkland Isls	102	-8½	...	43.9
104.20	Fine Art Dev	136	+4	6.1	10.6
42.40	Flying Flw Uk	179	-14	5.1	10.3
18.50	Formminster†	72½	-2½	5.7	6.7
58.58	French Conn	320	+22½	1.4	10.8
9.64	Gevest	31	...	5.4	9.1
30.70	Goldsmiths Grp	128	-5½	8.1	6.5
81.00	Grampian Hdgs	75½	+1½	12.1	9.2
6,222.10	GUS	618½	-31½	4.0	14.5
32.50	Hamleys	155	-17½	8.9	7.6
8.03	Hampden Grp	52½	...	6.9	7.3
49.40	Harveys Furn	70	-1½	16.1	4.1
169.16	Hse of Fraser	73	-1	9.4	7.9
37.40	Hughes (T.J)	141	+15½	3.1	12.3
265.00	JJB Sports†	212½	-28½	4.3	7.5
5,523.30	Kingfisher†	554	-15	2.7	17.6
35.30	Liberty	155	-25	...	...
28.50	Lingbell	78½	...	...	...
202.30	MFI	34	...	18.0	5.8
12,826.20	Marks Spencer†	448	+41½	4.0	17.1
36.30	Merchant Retail	35½	...	1.8	14.3
128.90	Moss Bros	142	+1	5.4	9.1
89.00	New Look	145	-8½	4.3	11.8
1,604.20	Next	453	+51	5.2	12.0
70.00	Oasis Stores	150	+15	6.5	16.0
7.84	Owen (G)	15½	...	...	...
143.80	Orflame Intl†	145	-10	11.4	5.9
3.46	Partners	18½	-1½	18.4	...
15.00	Partridge Fine	71½	...	9.1	5.6
6.89	QS Grp	22½	...	...	...
30.00	Rosebys	97	-5	16.3	3.7
71.40	Sare Group	73	+3	12.9	7.6
287.16	Sears	188	-13½	6.4	4.3
329.50	Selfridges	214½	-3½	3.6	...
527.60	Signet Group	31½	-½	...	...
1,292.00	Smith WH	512	-13½	4.1	15.9
727.90	Sothebys†	1305	-236	1.5	...
703.50	Storehouse	166	-15	5.8	7.8
19.20	Style Hldgs†	12½	-2½	1.6	15.3
23.80	Sylvol	40	-1	14.6	...
14.30	Tie Rack	2½	...	6.7	...
5.96	Upton & South	3	...	...	...
128.60	Wickes	169	-½	3.0	8.9
176.20	Wyevale	371	+22	2.6	19.6

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
665.30	AEA Tech	770	-42½	1.6	34.1
18.40	Abacus Recruit	135	+1½	1.4	7.5
50.60	Acorn	63½	...	...	...
437.60	Aggreko†	165	-5	...	...
57.20	Alpha Airpts†	33½	-3	1.9	21.6
28.00	Alphameric	48	-3	19.9	5.2
109.50	Amey Grp	45½	-4½	0.7	42.1
974.30	Atkins WS	617½	-45	1.6	30.4
19.00	BNB Rest	87½	-2½	10.6	7.3
131.00	BPP	480	+3½	4.4	15.0
291.60	BTG	317½	-15	0.2	...
35.50	Baldwin Intl	119	+1	3.6	6.7
22.90	Brandon Hire	90½	-2	4.6	18.7
11.80	Brooks Service†	52½	-18	5.8	8.5
182.20	Business Post	345	+2½	5.6	12.9
1,870.30	CMG†	1460	-120	0.4	60.1
32.00	Caird Gp	780	...	2.3	13.2
15.40	Calderburn	46½	-1	4.9	6.9
1,090.60	Capita Group	555	-50½	8.5	75.1
3.44	Chemex	8½	...	3.0	13.5
817.00	Computacenter	496½	+14½	0.8	27.2
352.60	Corp Services▼	147	-3½	5.5	16.6
12.00	Coutts Cnslig	26	-½	17	...
113.50	DCS Gp	491½	+9½	6.8	27.7
142.20	Danka Bs Sys	62½	-3	3.1	...
467.40	Davis Service	337	-18	4.3	15.5
61.60	Delphi†	277½	-13½	3.4	16.5
176.90	Diagonal	880	...	8.5	48.1
9.40	Eurocopy	16	-½	12.8	3.9
19.80	El Data Pr	75½	-2	3.6	13.2
485.70	FI Group	242½	-13½	0.7	62.1
217.60	Guardian IT	426	+4	6.1	60.5
21.10	HW Group	79½	-1½	3.5	5.5
53.30	Harvey Nash†	189	-1	3.2	10.6
4,818.90	Hays†	939	-16	1.4	28.4
21.80	Hercules Prop	245	-5	2.6	8.2
8.77	High-PointRnd†	37½	-1	...	5.9
181.20	Hogg Robinson	219	-25	6.2	14.8
145.40	Hastings	144½	-8	6.4	7.4
95.40	JBA Hldgst	260	-17½	2.8	59.6
112.90	Johnson Snrce	224	-1	7.2	7.8
13.90	Kalamazoo	32½	-1	...	...
126.40	Kewill Sys	966	...	1.4	21.0
4.35	Laser-Scan	13½	...	...	...
85.40	Lavendon	333½	-16½	1.5	20.2
1,305.10	Logica†	353½	-43½	0.8	41.8
31.10	Lorien	190½	+34½	5.6	7.7
166.20	Lynx Group	176½	-8½	1.4	...
103.20	MDIS	48½	-½	...	25.5
102.90	MMT Comp	857½	-92½	2.2	...
49.70	MR Group†	80	-13	5.1	10.9
69.00	Macro 4	350	-2½	9.3	18.4
54.10	Marlborough Int	305	+15	...	31.1
71.00	Mentmore Abbey	83	+8½	1.8	17.3
170.90	Micro Focus	113	-11	...	6.1
47.60	Microgen	109½	...	3.0	...
2,100.60	Misys	388	-56	0.9	29.3
160.00	MITIE Gp	119½	-4	1.2	24.0
39.50	Nord Anglia	200½	-14½	2.0	17.2
45.40	Oriel	40½	-1½	4.9	9.2
73.40	PSD	303½	+8½	4.8	6.4
205.30	Parity	416½	+6½	1.7	17.5
23.40	Pegasus	335	...	2.8	14.5
31.00	Pelmet	214	+5½	1.5	7.1
172.50	Photo-Me	388	-4	2.2	28.6
15.70	Planet	24	-½	...	...
17.40	Pnomtool	22	-3	4.3	4.6
16.90	RCO	180	+4	11.9	28.7
73.40	RPS Group	351	-2½	1.9	25.0
16.90	Radius	60½	...	2.3	20.6
28.80	Real Time	412½	-2½	2.3	13.4
193.10	Rebus	111½	-2½	2.4	30.0
41.70	Reed Executive	96	+½	4.2	4.8
34.90	Reliance Sec	152½	...	6.1	10.5
18,306.00	Rentokil Int	360	-27	1.1	32.8
65.40	Ricardo Group†	293½	+4½	4.1	19.9
82.80	Robert Walters	336½	+16½	1.8	14.1
28.60	Rolfe & Nolan	215	-15	1.6	...
68.10	Royalblue	245	+6	1.3	29.0
1,438.40	Sage Gp	1340	-180	0.3	48.9
62.60	Sanderson	132	-5	4.9	12.1
668.90	Select App	634	-34	0.6	21.6
2,120.60	Sema Gp	460	-60	0.5	43.4
640.40	Serco Gp	997½	-77½	6.8	31.5
387.00	Shanks & McEwan	193½	...	2.6	19.1
102.20	Shered Intl	1001½	-105	0.7	37.4
64.80	Simon Grp	53½	+2	2.2	10.7
32.60	Sinechley	34½	-1	...	...
155.60	Skillgroup	100	-7½	2.9	17.4
231.40	Sonog Gp†	160	-1½	3.4	17.8
22.10	Sta-Plus	121	-1½	11.7	10.7
15.00	Superscape VR	128½	+½	...	...
30.60	Tenet	04½	-1	3.2	15.6
21,327.00	Tyco Intl	3650	...	0.2	...
41.50	WSP Group	104	-4½	2.8	15.1
38.10	Warner Howard	161½	-4½	9.5	7.2
185.10	Waste Recycling	395½	-3	0.9	30.2
24.40	Wheatsead Mans	157½	+3½	6.8	9.0
16.10	White Young Grnt	83½	...	5.7	16.6
2,702.60	Williams	370½	-21	4.5	13.9
32.70	Zergo	180	...	...	...

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
53,636.30	BT	830	+25½	3.0	24.4
3,923.50	COLT Telecom	665	-55	...	...
15,993.20	Cable Wireless	665	+29	2.1	29.7
7,550.00	Cable&Wire Comc	507	+52	...	50.0
1,465.90	Energis	851½	+66½	...	...
38.70	Euro Telecom	118½	+13½	3.2	10.2
821.50	General Cable	225	...	...	...
29.50	Ionica Group#	17½	...	...	...
7,092.20	Orange	592	-29	...	...
2,932.90	Securicor	488	-11	8.5	47.0
2,832.70	TeleWest	132	-4	...	...
25,061.40	Vodafone	810	-24	0.9	62.6

TRANSPORT

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
22.90	Air London†	255	-22½	3.9	...
3,104.00	All Nippon Air	215½	-12½	...	...
847.18	Arriva	377½	+2	4.5	10.7
1,032.90	Assoc Br Ports	285½	-1½	4.2	14.0
46.70	Autologic	176½	+4	5.3	8.0
1,360.16	Avis Europe†	233½	-40	1.7	20.4
6,855.00	BAA†	648	+5½	2.7	17.9
4,190.90	Br Airways†	398	-7	5.1	8.6
11.10	Clarkson (H)	70½	-3	6.4	16.9
73.70	Clydeport	178½	+18½	4.1	9.8
57.70	Dart	178½	-1½	2.6	16.1
624.90	Eurotunnel Uts	74	-7½	...	...
1,327.20	FirstGroup	355½	-38	2.3	20.5
26.60	Fisher (James)†	55	-1½	7.7	4.8
256.70	Forth Ports	536	-½	3.3	12.7
29.50	Frontline	400	...	...	14.3
306.20	Go-Ahead†	621	+3½	2.0	14.2
100.40	Goode Durrant	324	...	4.5	0.3
79.70	Helphas Gp	488	+5	0.3	44.0
167.60	Irish Cont	720	...	6.8	15.4
61.60	Jacobs	60	+1	4.8	13.8
430.60	Mersey Docks	479	+1	3.9	11.2
103.00	Menzies	336½	+3	1.4	17.8
604.90	NFC	115½	-18½	7.8	12.0
1,161.90	Nat Express	1021	+23½	1.7	20.2
1,036.16	Ocean Group	654½	-16	2.6	18.9
33.30	Ocean Wilsons†	64	-1	6.5	5.4
3,776.80	P & O Dfd†	990	-34½	6.8	12.7
81.80	P & O 5.5%	131½	+7	5.7	...
113.30	Prism Rail	440	+12½	5.4	9.0
8,548.00	Railtrack	1688	+43	1.7	22.6
225.40	Stevenson (C)	85	-3½	18.7	9.1
9.62	Seacon	35	-2	4.5	25.6
18.10	Seascope Shpt	161	+4½	6.2	5.1
62.50	Servicer	153½	-9	4.3	10.9
3,090.20	Stagecoach	235	+8	1.2	19.1
150.60	Tibbet & Britn	315	...	7.5	8.4
191.70	TDG	245½	-19	5.2	16.6
97.40	Uniport	74½	...	6.4	4.9
4.75	Utd Carriers	14	-½	16.1	...

WATER

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,768.20	Anglian Water	835	+30	5.6	10.5
143.10	East Surrey	288½	-1½	5.2	8.9
1,330.30	Hyder†	881	+44	6.8	6.0
255.60	Hyder Cnv Prf	123½	+3	8.0	...
116.40	Mid Kent Hdgs	880	+2½	6.0	9.8
1,518.10	Pennon	1127	+51	4.5	14.1
3,774.00	Severn Trent†	1110	+104	3.8	12.3
232.70	South Staffs	387½	-2½	3.4	14.8
4,205.40	Thames	1205	+87	4.1	12.3
4,886.16	Utd Utilities†	890	+39	5.0	18.9
1,347.20	Wessex	632½	-1	4.1	12.4
2,179.00	Yorkshire	558	+48	4.6	11.4

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2.16	18 Grp	1	...	...	...
13.30	AF4 Systems	100½	+½	...	...
30.70	Access Plus	183	...	3.4	15.3
20.40	Albemarle & Bd	58½	-2½	1.8	18.4
35.70	Anglo Sibrn Oil	101	...	...	...
61.00	Ariadne	78½	-3½	...	...
11.40	Aortech	00½	...	...	...
73.20	Ask Central	322½	...	0.5	28.5
54.10	BATM Adv Comms	174	-1	1.7	...
30.90	BCO Technologies	172½	...	...	...
27.30	BGR	175	+5	2.1	19.9
18.00	Birmingham City	36	+½	...	...
15.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	132½	+5	3.5	12.8
7.00	Cafe Inns	141½	-2½	3.0	10.6
65.60	Card Clear	47½	-4½	0.7	21.0
31.40	CI Comms(TV)	97½	-9	3.4	17.0
14.60	Charlton Athl	51½	-½	...	...
121.40	Chelsea Village	77½	+3	...	58.5
94.70	Chorion	16½	+1	...	...
34.30	Cradel	103½	...	2.2	64.6
13.30	Coffee Rep	74	+4	...	...
25.80	Corniche	194	...	1.6	15.7
20.70	Computerland UK	225	...	1.0	22.4
15.00	Deep Sea Leisure	250	+25	...	16.8
15.80	Desire Petroleum	33½	-24	...	...
15.40	Dimension Res	24½	...	...	...
14.80	Dobbies Garden	225	...	2.8	13.7
21.00	Dragons Health	175	+6½	3.1	...
22.50	Easynet	134	-5½	...	...
41.30	Elec Retail Sys	196	-25	...	...
72.20	Enterprises	81½	...	7.8	5.9
126.20	Fibernet	323½	-53	...	...
16.00	Firestone Dmds	84	...	...	...
97.70	Fitness First	280	+21½	...	46.5
17.90	GB Railways	203½	+3	3.1	7.6
100.50	Garland W&B	115½	+13	4.3	9.6
23.30	Gold Mins Sard	17	-½	...	...
16.40	Gooch & Housego	115	...	1.8	17.0
37.40	Guiton	185½	...	4.6	12.4
31.50	Hardy Underwg	187½	-7½	4.4	8.8
18.00	Highams Sys	100	-5	1.2	18.7
143.78	Indpt Energy	552½	+8½	...	...
8.30	Inbbeach Intl	33½	...	...	...
18.80	Inner Workings	47½	-12	...	...
15.40	Intelligent Env	50	+1	...	...
25.70	Inter-Alliance	467½	+2½	...	...
24.00	Intevar Services	115	...	3.4	12.2
37.50	Internet Tech	107½	-11	...	...
11.40	Ins Greetings	517½	...	2.1	15.4
13.20	IOC Intl	42½	-6	...	...
19.90	JSB Software Tech	318	+20	...	...
12.90	James R Knowles†	65	...	3.1	...
20.70	Jennings Bros	280	...	3.5	20.2
13.50	Kingfisher Ls	139½	+3	1.8	15.2
26.20	Lawrence	375	...	3.0	13.3
30.30	Lawe Group	4750	...	2.2	4.8
48.00	Majestic Wine	347½	-2½	1.8	20.4
33.50	Medisys	30	-½	...	...
15.00	Megalomedia	20½	...	...	...
30.80	Memory Corp	27½	...	1.5	8.6
52.50	Metal Fin	52½	...	...	...
43.00	Microplanet	88½	+6	...	6.0
22.80	Moorepay	100	...	3.5	18.6
21.60	NAT	55	-1½	...	...
20.20	Nbo Retail Sys	184	-3	6.4	21.5
29.60	Petra Diamonds	67½	...	...	...
26.70	Policy Master Grp	189½	+2	...	44.0
14.50	Polymasc Pharms	72½	-1½	...	...
102.80	Prestbury Group	3	...	...	43.7
14.40	Proteome Scnes	18½	+5	...	...
12.20	Q Group	70	-8	6.9	11.2
116.70	Ramco Energy	386	...	...	...
17.78	Rapeseed	100½	...	3.0	13.8
12.80	SES	145	-2½	2.1	14.6
35.90	Science Syst	152½	...	1.0	21.0
38.60	Sibir Energy	59½	+½	...	...
7.90	Sirdar Petroleum	19½	...	...	...
12.40	Southern Vectis	62½	...	4.8	9.6
16.00	Sports & Out Media	50½	+4	...	22.3
36.20	Stallware	285	+2½	0.9	33.2
13.50	Sutton Harbour	135	...	3.4	16.1
17.60	Systems Intl	51½	-4	...	16.4
15.50	VDC	142½	-2½	4.8	12.2
10.00	WAL	37½	...	...	36.8

Source FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures as report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
6,150	Treas 1¼% 1998	100.0000		7.25	7.95
3,969	Exch 12% 1998	100.00001	-0.1402	12.00	6.59
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	100.4421	-0.0404	9.46	6.74
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	102.0463	-0.0983	12.00	6.33
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	102.07921	-0.0654	10.29	6.22
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	99.0755	-0.0185	6.01	6.14
1,790	Conv 10¼% 1999	104.13591	-0.0829	9.84	5.99
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	103.0049	-0.0708	8.66	5.80
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	104.0956	-0.1034	7.63	5.45
109	Treas 8½% 2000	103.0249	-0.0706	8.25	5.86
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	111.3645	-0.1665	11.67	5.71
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109.3557	-0.1432	9.14	5.56
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	104.7020	-0.0064	6.69	5.26
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,080	Treas 7% 2002	105.3649	+0.0416	6.61	5.56
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	115.0713	-0.0335	8.47	5.29
6,600	Treas 8% 2003	111.7389	+0.1366	7.16	5.08
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	120.4813	+0.1251	8.30	5.14
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113.7766	-0.2190	10.20	5.59
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	87.3829	-0.0649	3.59	3.97
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	122.1516	+0.2386	7.78	5.13
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	109.1165	+0.3305	6.19	4.98
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	120.3729	+0.7740	7.06	5.04
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	123.7158	-0.0888	7.08	5.12
2,280	Treas 12½% 2003-05	132.4030	+0.1631	9.44	5.11
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	118.2929	+1.0372	6.45	5.61
4,900	Treas 7¾% 2006	117.1465	-0.9586	6.62	5.06
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	108.4631	-0.0641	7.31	5.27
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	124.0043	-0.0335	6.47	5.25
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	124.0902	+1.2666	6.85	5.03
11,000	Treas 7¼% 2007	116.9817	+1.1140	6.20	4.90
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	131.4254	+1.5856	6.85	4.90
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	126.4413	+1.0681	6.33	4.82
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	111.8061	+1.5481	5.59	4.92
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	137.5083	+1.9771	6.54	4.96
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	139.7565	-2.1607	6.44	4.97
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	100.8677	+1.0217	5.20	4.76
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	126.3345	+1.9682	6.13	5.01
LONGS (over 15 years)					
8,100	Treas 8% 2013	131.7930	+2.2861	6.07	4.90
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	135.9624	+2.5876	5.88	4.87
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	147.4805	-3.8716	5.93	4.86
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	144.2470	+3.6004	5.55	4.77
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	71.5535	+2.7780	4.89	
475	Treas 2½%	49.6600	+1.8370	5.01	
359	Consols 4%	70.3484	+2.9984	5.11	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	205.3357	+0.2442	2.38	2.75
2,700	Treas IL 2½% 2003	205.6472	-0.3493	2.21	2.58
1,300	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	132.4779	-0.3731	2.19	2.38
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	227.7164	+1.2820	2.22	2.38
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	208.1050	+1.6626	2.26	2.37
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	219.8533	+2.0763	2.29	2.38
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	184.4330	+1.8807	2.29	2.37
4,125	Treas IL 2½% 2016	202.8092	+2.1263	2.27	2.34
3,600	Treas IL 2½% 2020	200.6123	+2.4465	2.27	2.33
4,200	Treas IL 2½% 2024	172.8960	+2.7660	2.22	2.29
1,550	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	170.7764	+2.3546	2.19	[illegible]

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CORPORATE PROFILE: *Tomkins*

THE FACTS

Results: Pre-tax profits of £257 million on turnover of £3.25 billion in the year to May 2, 1998.
Market value: £3.4 billion.
Employees: 66,000.
Businesses: Three main legs: *construction components*, food manufacturing — mainly bread and cakes — and industrial and automotive engineering. It also has a smaller professional, garden and leisure side which includes Smith & Wesson.

THE BOARD

Greg Hutchings, 51, is executive chairman of Tomkins. Educated at Uppingham School and the University of Aston, he joined the company — then called F H *Tomkins* — from Hanson in 1983. He became chief executive a year later and executive chairman in 1985. Hutchings plays hockey in Richmond every weekend, saying it helps to take his mind off business issues.

The deputy chairman and managing director — finance — is **Ian Duncan**. He joined the board in July 1994 from Pentos, the book retailer, where he was group finance director, having previously been at Avis and Rockwell International.

The chief operating officer, who only joined two years ago, is **David Snowdon**. He was brought in from Hanson, where he had worked on first the group's acquisition strategy and then its demerger.

Richard Marchant, the company secretary, and **Anthony Reading**, who runs the US operations, both joined in 1992, Marchant from Leigh Interests, Reading from BTR.

Tomkins has only three *non-executive directors and* only two are considered to be independent by institutional investors.

Charles Gates, is 77 and became a director in 1996 when Tomkins bought Gates Corporation, where he had been a director for 50 years. His family is Tomkins's largest single shareholder. **Ali Wambold** is a managing director of Lazard Frères in New York and **Roger Holland** is the controversial former chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled technology group.

The boardroom of Tomkins — often referred to as the "buns-to-guns" conglomerate — is in a conservatory built on top of the group's understated headquarters in Putney, South West London. The view is exceptinnal, stretching right across the West End and the City to Canary Wharf, home of Tomkins's main financial advisers, CSFB. It seems to exemplify Tomkins's relationship with the City — both acknowledge each other's existence, hut neither wants to be too close.

Greg Hutchings — the leader of the small group of executives that, over the past 15 years, has transformed a small buckle and fastener maker into a stalwart of the FTSE 100 — feels the City does not give Tomkins enough credit.

"Over the 15 years we have been very reliable and shown a huge outperformance," Mr Hutchings said. "We have set out to build bigger and better business units, always in the manufacturing sector, and we have tried to be non-cyclical and balanced."

He pointed out that the market value of the company has grown 43 times, and that the dividend has shown compound growth of 15 per cent per annum and never faltered. "No FTSE company can match that," he said.

Yet, despite being darlings of the City through most of the 1980s and some of the early 1990s, the shares have underperformed the market over the past six years. Indeed, the change from City darling to City *pariah can be accurately* dated from the time Tomkins agreed to buy the bread, cakes and milling company Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM) for £958 million in 1992.

For the first nine years of Mr Hutchings's rule at Tomkins, it appeared he could do no wrong. The company followed a path well trodden by acquisitive conglomerates in the 1980s, buying small manufacturing companies and using tight cash control, aggressive management and centralised head office services to increase their profits. One of the first companies it purchased, Ferraris Piston Services, was sold last year for £61 million, having cost Tomkins only £200,000 back in 1984.

The big leap forward came in 1986, when Tomkins made a hostile bid for Pegler Hattersley, the plumbing equipment company. The success of the Pegler purchase gave Tomkins the wherewithal to expand in the US, buying Murray, the lawnmower and bicycle maker, and Smith & Wesson. The fact that such a famous brand, synonymous with the Wild West and US law enforcement, should end up in British hands was seen as a symbol of British business virility. This, and the solid figures reported by Tomkins through the 1980s recession, contributed to the premium rating the group had prior to buying RHM.

Contrary to popular belief, Pegler was the only time a Tomkins takeover has not been an agreed deal. Many in the market incorrectly believe that Tomkins's bid for RHM was aggressive. "We were the white knights for RHM, which people forget was fighting off a bid by Hanson," Mr Hutchings said.

The City's unhappiness with the RHM deal came for three different reasons. The first was strategic. Though Tomkins had been seen as a conglomerate, it was focused on industrial products. Most analysts, and many institutional investors, questioned whether Tomkins had the expertise to turn around an ailing bread and cake maker. The second was due to the £600 million raised through a rights issue to fund the purchase, which hit the market at a time when many institutions wanted to shepherd their cash resources. Third, there was a feeling that Hutchings had bid for RHM only to show he could beat his former boss, Lord Hanson, at his own game.

Not surprisingly, Mr Hutchings has little truck with the third of these arguments. He pays lip service to the second and dismisses the first by pointing to RHM's performance under Tomkins. Last year the operation made £163 million of profit on £1.8 billion of sales, a margin creeping towards 10 per cent.

Hutchings says that increasing the margin was critical to making the RHM deal work, and this was achieved by cutting the operation's dependence on standard white, sliced loaves, where there is hardly any profit, replacing the business with branded bread such as Hovis and premium products such as croissants and frozen part-baked baguettes.

"The principles are the same and the way we incentivise our managers is the same, it does not make a blind bit of difference whether we are making a loaf of bread or a lawnmower," Mr Hutchings said. "We buy the raw materials, we make them into a product, we market that product and we collect money from the customers. I never understand why people thought it was a bit different."

Having bedded down RHM, Tomkins decided it was ready to make another strategic move in 1996, when it paid £913 million to buy Gates, a US group specialising in components for the automotive and engineering industry. Mr Hutchings saw it as an important step in the group's development.

"Gates gave us critical mass, particularly in the States," he says. "It means we are a £4 billion to £5 billion company, with a diversity that insulates us from most economic cycles. It also meant that we could start selling off some of the businesses that did not fit. Before Gates we would be concerned if we sold something for less than book value because of the hit on our profit-and-loss account. After Gates this became much less of a problem."

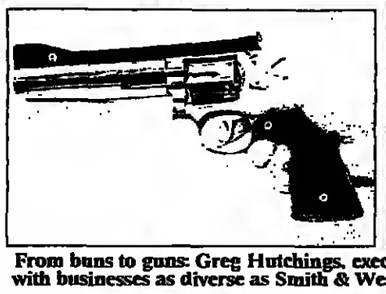
Since Gates, Tomkins has been pruning its portfolio, disposing of 20 companies in two years and only a few weeks ago selling the F H Tomkins Buckle Company, the original business on which the Hutchings empire was based. Tomkins has also signalled its willingness to cut loose another of its traditional businesses — the Professional, Garden and Leisure side, which includes Smith & Wesson. However, this side has been hit by a vicious price war in the US bicycle market.

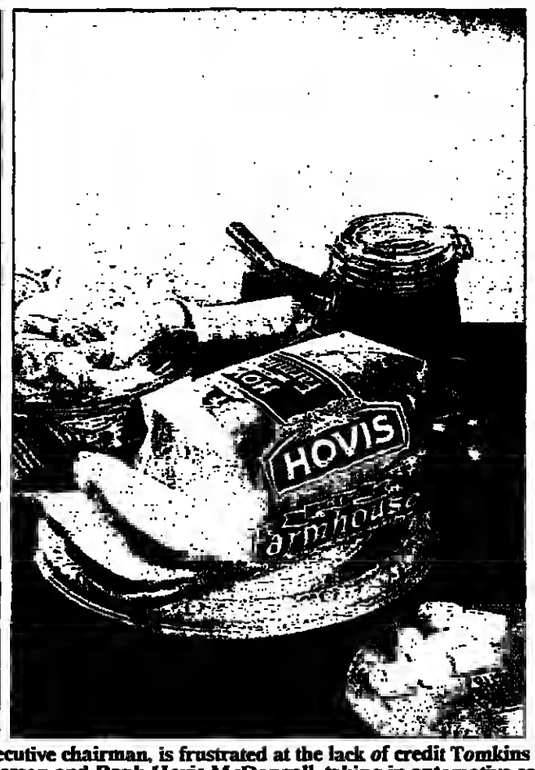
The disposal programme gave the City another reason to put pressure on Tomkins. Last year, noting that Tomkins had £617 million of net cash on its balance sheet, institutions and analysts pressed it to buy back some of its shares. Begrudgingly Tomkins did repurchase about £150 million of stock, but at the same time spent £741 million on add-on acquisitions and £204 million on capital investment. This has left Tomkins with a small amount of borrowings and a desire to buy bolt-on businesses.

"If you buy unrelated businesses, there is only one area of opportunity for improvement, the quality of your management," Mr Hutchings said. "In a related business, there are three areas — improvement management, incremental sales growth through selling your existing products to the new customer bases and vice versa, and the ability to enhance margins by having more buying power and not needing two head offices."

Even so, Tomkins might consider another large strategic move two or three years down the line. Mr Hutchings is not tempted into a large unrelated acquisition at the moment, despite the softening of prices ("Things are often cheap for a reason," he says). But given a couple of years and a change in City sentiment, who knows?

JASON NISSÉ





From buns to guns: Greg Hutchings, executive chairman, is frustrated at the lack of credit Tomkins is given by the City for the group's success with businesses as diverse as Smith & Wesson and Rank Hovis McDongall, taking in antomotive components and lawnmowers along the way

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Tomkins's strength lies in its ability consistently to generate superior returns, above-average earnings and dividend growth. Still in the process of transforming the capital structure, the company now has two platforms for further synergies and growth: foods and auto components."
Arend Dikkers, Salomon Smith Barney

"The strategy and structure of the group have become clearer in the last 18 months, which makes it easier to value and should enable a higher rating as the uncertainty discount is eliminated"
Mike Monkton, Warburg Dillon Read

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	3/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	6/10
Financial record	9/10
Share performance	5/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	6/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	65/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

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Past problems have caught up with Safeway

Colin Smith, Safeway chairman, is expected to report strong growth in like-for-like sales

SAFEWAY: A drop in profits and falling margins are likely when the supermarket chain unveils half-year results on Wednesday. The company, which struggled a year ago with supply chain problems and had to issue a warning on profits, has made strenuous efforts to improve operations this year and has invested in both marketing and margins.

However, BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects to see pre-tax profits drop from £230 million to £190 million, with earnings also down by about 17 per cent at 12.4p.

Full-year profit forecasts are likely to be downgraded. On the positive side, brokers forecast some growth in like-for-like sales on the back of a triple points promotion launched in April.

There should be a modest increase in the payout from 4.4p to 4.5p.

BOC GROUP: It is hoped that tomorrow's final results will signal the end of a difficult period. So brokers pin their hopes on an upbeat statement on current trading.

The outlook for 1999 remains uncertain, but industrial gases should be capable of continued growth.

Pre-tax profits will show a downturn, following a trend that has been apparent for much of the year. Brokers are forecasting a final outcome of between £375 million and £420 million, which compares with £445.2 million for 1997. Earnings per share will be down about 9 per cent at 54p.

The final quarter will have again been battered by currency factors, resulting in a higher than expected £12 million deficit. Despite the profits setback, the payout should grow from 29p to 31p.

BG: The gas supplier's third-quarter results, due on Wednesday, cover what is traditionally BG's quietest period. Brokers forecast a net loss of between £6 million and £10 million, against a loss of £16 million last time, after provisions totalling £53 million. Higher interest charges will cloud an increase in profitability at the trading level.

Overall profitability will be affected by the cut in prices, as directed by Ofgas, the industry regulator. Brokers say that weaker oil prices will continue to feed through, resulting in some weakness in BG's exploration and production business during the quarter.

STOREHOUSE: The problems of the Bhs and Mothercare retailer have been well documented, so interim numbers on Thursday should contain few surprises. Pre-tax profits are set to show a small downturn to between £35 million and £38 million. That compares with £38.5 million last time. Earnings should also decline from 6.3p to 5.9p.

The figures will reflect the deepening crisis for retailers because of the downturn in consumer spending, and will add to City fears of a disappointing Christmas. However, Storehouse will have ample opportunity to outline strategy for when the upturn eventually comes. The group has cut costs to the bone but must devise a way to boost sales.

Expect the payout to grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

UNIGATE: Today's interim figures from the dairy and foods group are likely to be hit by the fall in pig prices, which should set back profits by about £4 million. Analysts are expecting first-half earnings to come in between £62 million and £67 million, compared with £66.4 million last year.

The pig meat problems affect Unigate's Malton Foods processing business. Analysts suspect that Malton has been slow to pass on the weakness in prices to pig farmers, but some believe there is scope for recovery in the second half of the year.

The St Ivel foods business is also thought to be facing a tougher market. Unigate will also face pressure to say what it will do with the £172 million of net cash it has kept after the collapse of its talks with Hillsdown Holdings, the foods to housebuilding group, in May this year. In August, Unigate denied that the talks had restarted.

The interim dividend is expected to grow from 7.5p to 8p.

BRITISH STEEL: Lingering hopes that interim results today will show a pick-up in trading conditions are likely to be dashed. Pre-tax profits are set to plunge from £143 million to £100 million, with earnings per share down 1p, or 21 per cent, at 3.8p.

The recent decline in sterling will not be reflected in these figures. Instead, the story is expected to be one of falling demand combined with intense competition in Europe.

Sales will be down by about 4 per cent at £3.25 billion, with the problem compounded by lower prices and the recession in the Far East. Sales of stainless steel will be worst affected and brokers say Avesta Sheffield will probably turn in a loss. The emphasis now will be on cost-cutting that will result in job losses in return for first-half savings of £50 million.

The payout should be pegged at 3p.

HYDER: Interim results from the Welsh water and electricity distributor on Wednesday will be overshadowed by the recent price cut proposals for 2000-2005 from Ian Byatt, the industry regulator.

Brokers maintain that Hyder's water operation, Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water), is potentially one of the worst-affected companies because of its existing heavy debt burden. The proposed cuts could lead to downgrades of future dividend growth forecasts. They fear that, with gearing of 260 per cent already, the company may need to ask shareholders to dig deeper for extra funds.

It is expected to report pre-tax profits of about £115 million (£105.4 million). The dividend is expected to be between 17.5p and 17.7p, against 16.2p.

UNITED UTILITIES: Half-year results on Friday will be overshadowed by pricing issues. Anglian Water has already said that the regulator's proposed price cuts could endanger future dividend payments. Pre-tax profits should edge up to between £235 million and £245 million. United, which serves the North West of England, reported pre-tax profits of £233.6 million last year. It is expected to offer an interim dividend of 14.1p to 14.5p per share, up from 13.16p previously.

VODAFONE: Britain's biggest mobile phone operator is expected to weigh in with pre-tax profits of £400 million to £415 million when it unveils interim results tomorrow. That compares with £297 million for the corresponding period.

There are unlikely to be any surprises with the dividend. The group traditionally raises it 15 per cent, making 3.0p this time round. Headline pre-tax profits will be increased by a £45 million exceptional gain from the Globalstar disposal.

Results will reflect continued strong subscriber growth in both the domestic market and in overseas businesses, more of which should have made a profit for the first time.

Vodafone continues to account for about 30 per cent of all new subscribers in the UK. In the all-important pre-Christmas quarter, analysts are forecasting 1.5 million net new subscribers, which would give Vodafone net gains of 400,000.

MICHAEL CLARK

THIS is a meaty week for economy watchers both at home and abroad. In Britain, the focus will be on figures for retail prices and retail sales as debate rages about whether the Treasury and the Bank of England are too optimistic in forecasting that Britain will escape recession next year.

Retail prices, published tomorrow, are expected to show a fall in the headline rate of inflation to 3 per cent in October, from 3.2 per cent in September, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS. Underlying inflation is expected to stay at 2.5 per cent.

Published on the same day is the October Public Sector Net Cash Requirement. This is expected to be a net repayment of £6.6 billion, compared with a requirement of £1.6 billion in September.

October retail sales figures, due on Wednesday, are predicted to decline by 0.1 per cent, having risen by 0.4 per cent in September. This would reduce year-on-year sales growth to 1.7 per cent, from 3.7 per cent, in September. On the same day, the minutes of the November Monetary Policy Committee meeting, at which rates were cut by 0.5 per cent, will be published.

October M4 broad money supply figures on Thursday are expected to show a further easing in the annual rate of growth to 8.6 per cent, from 9.1 per cent in September. The week ends with the first revision to third-quarter GDP, expected to revise down growth to 0.4 per cent, from 0.5 per cent in preliminary figures, and the annual growth rate to 2.4 per cent, from 2.5 per cent.

There is a great deal going on internationally. The key event will be tomorrow's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee as markets watch for the possibility of a further US rate cut.

Other highlights include the expected final details of Japan's economic package today, the possibility of more details of Russia's economic plans as the new German Chancellor and an International Monetary Fund delegation visit Moscow, and the latest OECD Economic Outlook tomorrow.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Babcock International, Racal Electronics, Sibir Energy and Vickers; **Sell** City Technology Holdings and Celtic. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** TJ Hughes, Enterprise Inns and *Dialog*; **Sell** *British Telecom*, Heart of Midlothian, Royal & SunAlliance and FirstGroup. *The Express on Sunday*: **Buy** Marley, Marks & Spencer and Invesco Convertible Trust; **Sell** Coca-Cola Beverages; **Hold** Waddington and Eidos.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.70	2.53
Austria Sch	20.81	19.15
Belgium Fr	61.24	56.28
Canada $	2.692	2.504
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8756	0.8041
Denmark Kr	11.30	10.41
Egypt	5.86	5.25
Finland Mkk	9.11	8.36
France Fr	9.91	9.13
Germany Dm	2.979	2.737
Greece Dr	499	460
Hong Kong $	13.70	12.50
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	16538	11538
Ireland Pt	1.1850	1.0988
Israel Shk	7.32	6.66
Italy Lira	2961	2724
Japan Yen	218.65	201.12
Malta	0.684	0.605
Netherlds Gld	3.365	3.070
New Zealand $	3.23	3.00
Norway Kr	13.08	12.14
Portugal Esc	301.04	279.01
S Africa Rd	10.20	9.24
Spain Pta	250.76	231.97
Sweden Kr	14.34	13.24
Switzerland Fr	2.468	2.250
Turkey Lira	506022	472388
USA $	1.759	1.626

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

TODAY

Interims: Berisford, British Steel, James Cropper, Maltacom, Pillar Property, Renold, 600 Group, Unigate, Workspace Group. **Finals:** Barlow, John Lusty, Sidlaw Group, Wardle Storeys. **Economic statistics:** None scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: BTG, FirstGroup, Gali Thomson Environmental, Great Portland Estates, Helical Bar, HW Group, Merchant Retail Group, Meyer International, Northern Foods, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, Rebus Group, Suparule, TGI, Vodafone Group, Vosper Thornycroft. **Finals:** BOC Group, Cirqual. **Economic statistics:** October retail price index, October public sector finances, Debt Management Office gilt auction details, OECD economic outlook.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Azlan Group, BG (q3), Cosalt, European Colour, FKI, Hyder, Land Securities, Lazard Select Investment, National Power, New Look Group, Porter Chadburn, Safeway. **Finals:** Century Inns. **Economic statistics:** October retail sales, minutes of November BoE MPC meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: Babcock International Group, Bradford Property, Cedar Group, Dialog Corp (q3), Glenmorangie, Lambert Fenchurch, Martin Currie European, Scapa Group, Storehouse. **Finals:** Tomkinsons. **Economic statistics:** October provisional M4, M4 lending, October final M0, BSA October building society lending data, BBA October bank lending data, October car production.

FRIDAY

Interims: Acatos & Hutcheson, Black Arrow Group, Fibernet, Raglan Properties, Osborne & Little, United Utilities, Vindian. **Finals:** None scheduled. **Economic statistics:** Provisional q3 GDP.

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Equities get £31m vote of confidence from directors

By Fraser Nelson and Manus Costello

DIRECTORS are showing more confidence than ever in London equities and spent £31.4 million buying shares in their own companies last month, according to figures compiled by *The Times*.

The buy-to-sell ratio, which normally peaks at 5:1, rose to 16:1 over October — significantly higher level than the 13:1 ratio in September when heavy boardroom buying preceded a sharp stock market upturn.

In October, there were 386 buys and only 26 sell transactions. By value, £30 million of shares were bought and £6 million sold.

The continuing heavy support will be seen as further evidence that directors believe the City is still grossly undervaluing the shares and has not closed the valuation gap created during the steady summer crash.

Donald Gordon, non-executive chairman of Liberty International, was one of the heaviest buyers, ploughing £9.14 million of his personal fortune into shares of the financial services group.

Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Pendragon, went into the market six times in October to pick up £350,000 of shares.

Klaus Murmann, chairman of the Federation of German Employers, spent a further £140,000 of his cash on shares of GKN, where he is nonexecutive director. He has now made 10 purchases over the past two months.

John Salmon, chief executive of Druck Holdings, spent nearly £100,000 on shares of the engineering company.

Mr Salmon said: "We felt that the shares had fallen back suddenly to a level which made them a reasonable buy.

"We are not playing games and will not sell the shares quickly.

"We are in this for the long term — at that price it made sense to add more shares to our portfolios."

Sellers of shares included Paul Gilligan, property director of PizzaExpress, who ditched £845,000 of stock.

Robin Saxby, chairman of ARM Holdings, made £1.82 million selling some of his shares at 800p in the group — even though they have been plunging steadily from £13 since the summer.

Martin Ackroyd, finance director of Wm Morrison, sold nearly £80,000 worth of shares at the beginning of October.

He said: "I needed some money to buy a house, that's all. The share price had no bearing at all on my decision to sell. The shares had bottomed out anyway."

As directors can only trade shares at certain times in the year, the figures compare October 1998 with October 1997.

Only those deals that are worth over £2,500 are counted, and transactions arising from share options or the like are ignored.

DANIEL KENNEDY

Rebel with a cause: Paul Dixon at the new Big Rock Harley Davidson in Nottingham

Dixon in Harley venture

By Jason Nissé

DIXON MOTORS, which through its subsidiary Carnell is Britain's largest seller of motorcycles, will today open its first Harley Davidson dealership, selling the American motorcycles made famous in the film *Easy Rider*.

Big Rock Harley Davidson will be opened by Paul Dixon, the group's chief executive, in Nottingham and is one of only 18 outlets in the UK selling the famous brand.

As a centrepiece to the dealership Dixon has had an eight-and-a-half tonne piece of rock transported from Milwaukee, where Harley Davidsons are made.

Buyers of the bikes, which cost anything from £5,000 to £20,000, will be invited to carve their names and the date of delivery of the bike in the rock.

"The Harley brand has an image with business people who want to escape their conventional existence and make a big statement," said Jonathan Fine, Dixon's marketing director.

"There is a sector of the market known as 'born again bikers' — men who get into their mid-thirties and want to reinvent their youth. They are not into fishing, not into football, so they buy themselves a bike."

Harley sales are currently growing at about 20 per cent a year in Britain.

Japan banks on the relative merits of absolute zero

They said it couldn't happen. Now it has. Several of Londoo's leading banks have imposed negative interest rates on deposits in Japanese yen. Does this herald an escape from Japan's predicament? And does it mean that we should all revise our view of the level to which interest rates could possibly fall?

In fact, negative interest rates are far from unprecedented. In 1978 the Swiss authorities briefly imposed negative rates on non-residents' deposits. During the 1930s most US government securities bore negative rates as they neared maturity. Closer to home, many current accounts pay no interest and impose charges.

So why all the fuss? If interest rates can be negative, and if Japan needs much lower rates, then why stop at the current level of plus 0.25 per cent? Let the Bank of Japan reduce rates to minus 5 per cent, or whatever.

Uneasy? You probably feel in your bones that negative interest rates simply do not add up — and you are right. There is something peculiar aboot all the quoted examples. But what stands against negative rates is somewhat surprising — and illuminating. It has nothing to do with the need to give savers an incentive. In some situations people will go on saving regardless. Nor is it anything necessarily to do with the inherent fruitfulness of the world. In depression conditions, as the Japanese situation illustrates, investing mooey in supposedly productive assets can readily yield negative returns. It is not a matter of logic or the state of nature.

ROGER BOOTLE

The zero limit oo the rate of interest applies solely to monetary economies, and it derives from the essential role of money as a store of value. If you can hold something which will not deteriorate, why would you lend it only to be repaid a smaller amount? In older monetary systems gold was the store of value. The modern equivalent is bank notes, which do not carry interest, positive or negative. If banks would lend at minus 5 per cent, who would not borrow up to the hilt simply to accumulate notes? But no bank would lend, given that they could hold notes instead.

So how is it that some yen deposits currently carry negative rates? Worry about the solvency of Japanese banks makes people prepared to deposit with non-Japanese banks even at negative rates. Equally, these banks have difficulty in lending the yen without undue risk. Accordingly, they bid down for the deposits. But there are limits. A charge of 0.3 per cent per annum is all very well, but if the banks increased it to say 5 per cent, it might be a different story. Most importantly, this offers no escape for Japan.

The Japanese public finds notes pretty attractive compared with bank deposits as it is. If the banks tried to impose significantly negative interest rates there would be a rush to withdraw cash.

Yet the Japanese economy is crying out for negative rates. One suggested solution is to accept the impossibility of negative *nominal* rates and to induce negative *real* rates by deliberately encouraging inflation. But how do you create inflation in an economy as depressed as Japan's?

Economists of an older generation came up with a solution to the problem of absolute zero which was at once brilliant and obvious. It also happened to be mad. If the difficulty is caused by notes carrying an implicit interest rate of zero then why not impose negative rates on ootes? Instead of "I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of ten pounds" the promise would be to pay a sum which declined at a rate chosen periodically by the authorities. In that case, if the economy needed minus 10 per cent interest rates, it could have them. Notes would have to carry issue dates according to which their declining value could be calculated. Imagine the problems of fixing prices, or making payments. Would a price be quoted in terms of the February money or the March?

The whole point about a monetary economy is the constant value of mooey. Take that away and you cease to have a monetary economy at all, with all the devastation that implies. That is, of course, exactly what happens in hyperinflation. Ironically, something similar could occur io a depression if the authorities tried to impose oegative interest rates. In practice, however, just as in much of Russia today, foreign currencies would take over.

The moral is that if you are sitting on a substantial bank deposit you can rest easy. Rates may come down a long way but there is a limit. Economics being the subject that it is, the limit may oot be exactly zero, but in practical terms it is close enough. If that cheers you up, though, you cannot be Japanese.

Superstores win market share

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

BRITAIN'S high streets are losing their fight against the out-of-town superstores and are set to give up more trade to them in the next five years as, despite tough planning regulations, about 880 more are to be opened.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, forecasts that superstore sales will grow by 39 per cent between now and 2003, which is faster than the all retail sales uplift of 29 per cent. In five years' time superstores will account for 32.5 per cent of UK retail sales, up from this year's 30.3 per cent and nearly double the figure ten years ago when it was just 17 per cent.

Up to 880 new superstores are expected to open in the next five years, half of them in the clothing, leisure and variety category that includes Marks & Spencer, Matalan, the sports and pet retailers, Next and Toys R Us. The traditional growth areas such as DIY are set to slow down.

A surge in demand for digital electrical products should see up to 200 more electricals superstores opening, bringing the total to almost 1,000.

The supermarket chains are expected to have some success getting around the planning regulations and to open 170 superstores, particularly in the less well served regions such as the South West, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

By 2003, superstores are forecast by Verdict to account for 62 per cent of the supermarkets' sales, compared with the current 55 per cent.

Wendy's to review UK operations

WENDY'S, America's third biggest hamburger chain after McDonald's and Burger King, is to review its UK operations after their failure to meet sales and profit targets (Dominic Walsh writes).

This is the second time Wendy's has hit problems in its attempts to make an impression on the British fast food scene. A high-profile bid to conquer the UK in the 1980s was abruptly halted, and it was 1992 before it returned to London to launch a fresh assault with its famous square hamburgers.

The US group is "conducting a strategic review of its equity ownership in the United Kingdom" in the wake of a warning over its fourth-quarter profits caused by weaker demand in its overseas markets.

It said a review of its UK and Argentine arms could force the group to take a charge against earnings.

Study finds loan funds emerging

By Caroline Merrell

A STUDY supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundatioo has found that credit unions, community loan funds and mutual guarantee societies are emerging to fill the gap left by the demise of local banks in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The researchers from the New Ecooomics Foundation found that these institutions now have assets of more than £400 million, and serve more than half a million people.

The study found that there were now more than 700 credit onions in the UK with more than 400,000 members. The research also highlighted the existence of community loan funds. These are charitable institutions providing start-up capital for community regeneration initiatives. The 11 existing funds bave assets of more than £74 million and have allowed borrowers to lever-in £10,000 of commercial capital for every £1,000 lent.

The study is being launched today at meeting attended by Patricia Hewitt, the economic secretary to the Treasury.

The study orges banks and other financial institutions to recognise the emerging business case for getting involved in such schemes. For example, written off bad debts represent an average of just 2.9 per cent of total assets held by credit unions.

MORTGAGES

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION ON MORTGAGES FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND BRANCHES

The following interest rates will apply from 1st December 1998 for loans not yet drawn and from the first payment date on or after 1st December 1998 for existing Bank of Scotland Branch Customers.

Home Loan Rate 8.19% per annum.

Premier Flexi Mortgage Rate 7.69% per annum.

The following interest rate for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 1st December 1998 for both new and existing borrowers.

Banking Direct Mortgage Rate (Variable) 8.19% per annum.

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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (£million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.19	10 Grp	1		..	..
191	74½	13.30	AFA Systems	105½	+ 1½	..	..
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	..	8.2	7.1
157½	127½	8.29	ATA Group	127½	..	2.0	10.0
271	180	30.70	Access Plus	183	...	3.4	15.3
67½	47½	6.27	AdVal Group	47½	..	..	12.6
7¼	3¼	4.44	African Gold	4½	..	..	..
96½	36½	30.40	Albemarle & Bd	68½	- 2½	1.8	16.4
43½	24½	9.41	Alltyme	26½	+ 1½	..	..
102½	42½	8.88	Ambient Media	46½	+ 1	...	...
325	117½	9.76	Ambishus Pub Co	117½	- 2½	..	..
108½	98½	36.70	Anglo Sibrn Oil	101		..	..
119	72½	3.07	Anglo-Welsh	99	+ 1½	3.8	8.1
117½	74½	61.00	Antonov	78½	- 3½		
110½	85½	17.40	Aortech	85½	..	..	..
100	80	4.16	Aram Resources	80	+ 1	6.6	26.9
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	..	..	..
485	236¼	73.20	Ask Central	322½	..	0.5	28.5
72½	54½	1.03	Athelney Trust	57½	..	2.4	49.1
24½	8½	10.00	Atlantic Caspian	9	- ½	...	...
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	- ½	...	..
193	124	54.10	BATM Adv Comms	174	- 1	1.7	..
238½	166½	30.90	BCO Technologies	172½	..	..	..
317½	160	27.30	BGR	175	+ 5	2.1	19.9
3¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼			
109½	44½	11.60	Barbican Health	60	+ 5	..	62.8
2	1½	2.83	Beachcroft	1½	..	4.2	9.0
2¼	1	2.91	Beaufort	1½	+ ¼	5.7	..
44	26½	5.28	Bickerton	34½	- ½	1.8	44.9
117½	67½	1.16	Billam	72½		9.1	...
53½	39½	3.52	Bilston Batsea	39½	..	2.4	...
1½	0¾	5.66	Birchin Intl	1	...		...
0¾	0¼	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¼		...	...
44½	30½	18.00	Birmingham City	36	+ ½	..	..
67½	6½	1.15	Blakes Cloth	11¼	...	10.9	1.7
156½	68	11.60	Bond Intl Soft	85	...	..	20.6
325	235	2.21	Bowness Leis	315		3.0	13.5
37½	7½	2.42	Brancote Hldgs	12½	+ 1	...	..
105	65	2.73	Br Bloodstock	65		4.6	5.3
25½	12½	1.52	Buckland Invs	12½	- 1½	..	..
12	9	0.06	Buckland Inv Wts	10½		..	..
262	106	15.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	132½	+ 5	3.5	12.5
170	80	8.28	C & B Publishing	115	...	..	32.6
165½	111½	1.44	CCI Hldgs	120	...	2.6	-
11½	8	14.00	CCM Distribution	8½	...	..	..
79½	49½	3.08	CW Residential	70	...	3.2	33.8
235	140	7.08	Cale Invs	141½	- 2½	3.0	10.6
60	40	4.92	Caledonian Tst	40	...	...	5.4
19	6½	1.87	Cambridge Min Res	6½	...	...	...
2½	2	3.38	Canbury Inv	2¼	...	..	35.9
0¼	0¼	0.68	Canbury Inv Wts	0¼	..	..	..
81½	38½	65.60	Card Clear	47½	- 4½	0.7	31.0
54½	35½	3.89	Carisbrooke Ship	38½	+ 1	3.2	12.4
19	9½	124.10	Carlisle	14½	- 1½	..	33.6
11½	4	3.49	Carlisle Wts	6½	- ½	..	...
35	34	1.87	Cassidy Bros	34	..	11.0	...
13	8	5.22	Celebrated Group	8½	- ½	..	..
106½	71½	• 21.40	Cl Comms(TV)	97½	- 9	3.4	17.0
86½	47½	14.60	Charlton Athl	51½	- ½		
85	65	3.25	Charnol	65	..		..
14½	8¼	11.20	Charterhouse Cms	11¼	...	3.8	10.9
115	66½	121.40	Chelsea Village	77½	+ 2	..	58.5
29	13½	94.70	Chorion	18½	+ 1	..	..
122½	100½	34.30	Citadel	103½	..	2.2	64.6
82	25½	5.54	City Gourmets	26½		...	...
113	85	0.94	Clan Homes	105	- 5	...	...
28½	8½	13.30	Coffee Rep	14	+ 4		..
317½	117½	25.60	Comino	194	.	1.6	15.7
369	142½	20.70	Computerland Uk	225	.	1.0	32.4
19½	12½	9.87	Concurrent Tech	14	- ½	1.8	21.0
46½	32	7.65	Conister Tst	34	.	7.4	8.1
3¼	1½	5.73	Corporate Exec	1¼	- ¼	...	17.5
15½	1½	3.84	Creos Intl	8½	..	.	...
153½	113½	5.79	Cresco Intl	113½	...		30.9
230	115	1.88	Crown Eye	117½	...	13.3	69.6
31½	19½	1.18	Dalkeith Invs	24½	...		..
287½	192½	9.24	Down Til Dusk	192½	..	2.7	13.0
400	179	15.80	Deep Sea Leisure	250	+ 25	..	19.5
6¼	2¼	7.39	Dentmaster	5		2.9	
495	33½	15.80	Desire Petroleum	33½	- 24	...	..
79½	33½	7.86	Digital Anmtn	53½	..	..	...
22½	17½	15.40	Dimension Res	24½	..	..	.
18½	2½		Dimension Wts	17½		..	
37½	16½	3.03	Dinkie Heel	30½	- ½	9.8	7.6
135½	79½	7.96	Delyn Group	91½	- 1	2.3	..
45	16½	6.11	Dmatek	32½		..	..
406	195	14.80	Dobbies Garden	225	..	2.6	13.7
30	19½	2.36	Downtex	19½			10.1
263½	145	21.00	Dragons Health	175	+ 6½	2.1	..
3¼	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2		..	12.9
335	217½	9.24	Durlacher	330	+ 25	..	15.0
39½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½		.	..
210½	73½	27.50	Easynet	134	- 5½		.
530	120	41.30	Elec Retail Sys	195	- 25		...
103	75	22.20	Enterprises	81½	...	7.0	5.9
21	11½	4.66	Epic Multimedia	20			21.6
45	45	14.10	Epicure Netwks	45		...	...
95	2½	1.02	Eurasia Mining	2½	..		
3¼	½	2.00	Fairplace Cons	3½		4.0	9.9
335	200	7.51	Faltake	289	+ 14	0.9	16.2
82½	47½	12.30	Faywood	61½	- 1	2.6	11.5
527½	110½	126.20	Fibernet	323½	- 53	.	.
108½	20½	4.17	Fieldens	83½	.		
117½	37½	19.00	Firestone Dmds	84			
413½	206½	97.70	Fitness First	280	+ 21½		46.5
160	95	4.16	Flomerics	160		2.3	26.5
100	30½	1.04	Floral St	32½	+ 2		
102½	57½	8.85	Formscan	83½	.	4.5	9.3
152½	99½	9.22	Fountain Forestry	102½		3.4	14.5
205½	158½	11.00	Furlong Homes	166½	+ 3½	4.8	5.0
99½	58½	2.16	Future Intl Telep	26½	- 1		
301½	176½	17.90	GB Railways	203½	+ 2	5.1	7.9
41½	21½	5.61	GR Hldgs	42½	...	3.0	
12½	½	14.10	GTL Res	6½	- 3	..	..
179½	55½	100.50	Garnand W&B	112½	+ 13	4.3	9.6
25½	[illegible]	15.30	Gold Mns Sard	17	- ½	.	..
70	75	10.70	Golf Club	22½			...
171½	113½	19.40	Gooch & Housego	115		1.6	17.9
23	3	3.20	Griffin Mining	15½	+ 3½	.	.
4½	[illegible]	0.02	Griffin Mng Wts	2½	.	.	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	2.00	Grosmont Hldgs	½		..	13.9
1½	0	0.00	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½		...	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Grosvenor Ltd	9	.		29.7
15	5	37.40	Guiton	165½		4.0	12.4
175	150	1.34	Hanson	3½	+ ½		17.0
6¼	[illegible]	31.50	Hardy Underg	187½	- 1½	4.4	8.0
255	142	11.90	Haslord	1¼			..
7½	5¼	7.37	Hasol Group	29		.	..
40	[illegible]	3.94	Hat Pin	67½	+ 2	1.9	..
29½	[illegible]	5.20	Healthfee	400	.	2.5	19.6
405	[illegible]	12.40	Heavitree A	295	..	3.4	14.4
295	[illegible]	3.75	Helical Ptng	63½	+ 3	..	...
9½	[illegible]	19.20	Highams Sys	100	- 5	1.2	18.7
145	[illegible]	8.14	Highland Timber	92½	.		
135½	92½	14.70	Home Counties Leisure	65	- 2½		10.3
65	55½	1.22	Hullingham	77½	- 2½	1.6	45.8
50	50	3.91	Hydro-Dynamic	58½		8.3	12.5
97½	[illegible]	7.00	ISS	30		1.7	
[illegible]	[illegible]	10.40	IS Solutions	217½	- 15	1.2	25.0
[illegible]	139½	145.70	Ingot Energy	552½	+ 87½	...	-
[illegible]	121½	0.63	Incas Radio	55½	.		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Infobank Intl	33½		.	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17½	- 12	.	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	42½		.	.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	20	+ 1	..	.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	46½	- 2½		..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	115		3.4	12.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10½		2.3	15.4
149	115	[illegible]	[illegible]	1		...	
115	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	102½	- 11	2.7	15.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	51½			
129	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	42	- 6		36.1
[illegible]	277	[illegible]	[illegible]	250	- 5		...
[illegible]	30	[illegible]	[illegible]	210	- 20		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	65		3.1	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	54	- 1	..	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	264		3.5	20.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	..	9.0	6.5

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (£million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
62½	42½	9.18	Jardec	43½	..	.	10.1
46½	17½	4.43	Jumbo Intl	22½	..	...	...
3	1	7.92	Just Group	1½	..	...	...
42½	32½	3.74	Kern River	32½	..	...	...
55½	19½	2.52	Keystone Soft	22½	+ 3	...	...
25½	7½		Keystone Wts	7½	- 1		
193½	136½	13.50	Kingfisher Ls	139½	+ 3	1.8	15.2
..			LTE Technologies				...
260	122½	10.60	Lady in Leisure	180	- 10	1.4	...
260	122½	6.97	Landround	155	...	3.1	13.8
427½	375	26.30	Lawrence	375	...	3.0	13.3
5750	3750	90.20	Lawrie Group	4750		2.2	4.8
90¼	30½	3.37	Lepco	31½	...	..	..
495	305	6.10	Loades	305	..	0.5	...
31½	9½	4.60	Loftus Road	11½	+ 1	..	...
12¼	4¼	2.49	Lond & Edin Pub	7½	+ ¼	..	..
125	80	4.50	London Town	85	.	3.4	5.8
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45			
151½	127½	4.74	Longbridge Intl	143½	..	4.2	11.8
144½	53½	2.03	Longmead	56½	.	5.2	
27½	12½	2.90	Loot	12½	..	..	
2	0¼	1.31	Lotteryking	0¼	...	...	10.7
1	0¼	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	..	..
36½	20½	4.27	M&MS Petroleum	35	...	..	..
1½	0¼	12.50	MV Sports	0¼	..	.	..
29½	5½	9.94	Magnum Power	10½	...	..	..
517½	302½	48.00	Majestic Wine	347½	+ 2½	1.8	20.4
12½	4	7.72	Mano River UK	11	- 1	..	..
9½	4¼	3.19	Mans & Oseas	4½	...	..	25.7
55½	35½	5.11	Market Link Pb	34½	...	1.1	8.3
115	73	1.70	Matrix Hlthcare	74	...	5.1	...
13¼	11¼	5.53	Maxs Group	11¼	...	3.4	8.9
39½	17½	33.50	Medisys	20	- ½	..	...
66½	19½	15.08	Megalomedia	20½	...	1.5	8.9
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
53	14½	53.50	Memory Corp	27½	...	..	..
55½	47½	52.53	[illegible]	52½	...	...	6.0
65½	43½	3.74	Methvens	43½	...	..	..
114½	109½	13.93	Metnor Group	109½	...	.	18.7
115	50	4.00	Mosodome	89	...	.	...
131½	45½	45.00	Moorpland	88½	+ 6	...	...
55½	37½	2.78	Mcoses	45½	...	...	...
330	155	22.80	Moorepay	185	...	3.5	18.6
124	55	4.37	Mountachel	57½	...	...	0.5
70½	24½	10.70	Mulberry Group	51½	...	3.6	...
3¼	2	1.90	MultiMedia	2¼	..	..	...
13¼	6¼	8.09	Murray Financial Corpo	8	...	...	..
15¼	9	0.67	NECA	9	..	6.9	...
67½	40½	21.60	NMT	55	- 1½	..	..
78½	52½	4.69	NRP	62½	+ 7	..	...
373	160	20.20	Nch Retail Sys	184	- 3	0.4	21.5
225	145	11.50	NWF Grp	145	...	7.1	7.3
195	155	10.80	Nash (Wm)	155	...	6.5	6.0
5½	5	5.17	Nat Bldg Mts	5¼	..	..	...
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prf	105	..	..	..
260	255	9.01	Nelli Clert	257½	...	..	..
78½	40½	7.69	Netcall	42½	+ 1		..
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...		24.8
25	2	0.51	Ntm Petm	2½	...	..	...
60½	49½	3.94	Northstar Sec	62½	...	...	34.0
55½	23	0.75	Northstar Sec Wts	37½	...	..	..
62½	50½		Old Monk Company	53½	+ 3	...	13.5
58½	12½	0.41	On Line	12½	...	...	..
227½	100	8.92	Optoplast	102½	...	1.8	11.7
21	8	9.65	Oxford Biomedica	8½	+ ¼	...	..
1½	0½	7.70	Pacific Media	0½	...	..	..
39½	7½	4.61	Pan Andean Res	9½	+ ¼	...	..
32½	21½	2.73	Parallel Pcts	21½	- 1	...	..
245	230	5.78	Park Eats(Liv)	240	...	5.3	16.3
154½	77	6.78	Peel Hotels	135½	+ 3	...	...
21	5½	2.93	Pembertons	6	...	..	...
183½	91½	7.38	Pennant Intl	111½	+ 3	...	14.7
55½	34½	12.40	Personal No Co	45½	- 7	...	...
155	70	29.50	Petra Diamonds	87½	..	...	...
122	58½	1.02	Petra Dmnds Wt	61		...	...
30½	10½	7.09	Philippine Gd	10½	- 4	...	25.8
62½	10	3.30	Pilat Tech	13½	+ 1	11.1	4.5
210½	162½	26.70	Policy Master Grp	189½	+ 2	..	44.0
151½	71½	14.50	Polymasc Pharms	72½	- 1½	...	...
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	...
1	0¼	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¼	..	..	..
16	10½	9.42	Premier Asset Mgt	10½	- ¼	...	...
182½	167½	6.31	Premier Direct Grp	170½	..	..	5.5
7	2½	102.80	Prestbury Group	3	..	..	43.7
445	310	7.04	Preston Nth E	335	...	...	...
67½	62½	4.18	Private & Comm	67½	..	1.1	12.2
46½	9½	14.40	Proteome Scis	18½	+ 5	..	...
55	45	1.94	Pubs n Bars	52½	+ 3½	..	..
107½	59½	9.36	Pycrall & Arnold	60	...	3.6	10.5
118½	69½	12.20	Q Group	70	- 8	0.9	11.2
847½	305	116.70	Ramco Egy	385	...	2.0	5.2
10½	6½	9.94	Range Cooker	6¼	..	..	..
137½	77½	15.70	Raphael Zrn	105½	...	3.0	13.8
67½	24½	4.13	Recycling Servs	25½	...	..	44.0
19½	3	1.19	Reflec	4	...	..	..
7	4	4.64	Revelation Plc	4½	...	8.8	4.5
20½	7	4.94	Riceman Insce	7½	..	..	..
111½	78½	4.16	Romtec	78½	..	2.5	..
357½	130	12.80	SBS	145	- 2½	2.1	14.6
152½	54	7.05	SCI Ent	55½	- 3	...	...
14½	4	0.99	SEA Multimedia	4	..	..	..
110	53	11.98	Salestore	53	- 1½	...	...
132½	112½	6.88	Savoy Asset Mgt	127½	...	4.0	13.9
243½	136½	25.90	Science Sys	152½	...	1.0	21.0
23	7½	1.96	Scotswood Inds	18½	- 2½	..	...
3	1	3.18	Screen	1¼	- ¼	..	..
42½	1½	0.54	Selector	2¼	...	..	...
190½	153½	13.60	Shalibane	168½	+ 2	3.4	8.2
87½	62½	3.39	Shelton (M)	64	...	8.3	7.4
47½	4¼	38.60	Sibir Energy	5½	+ ½	...	...
4¼	2½	7.93	Sira Bus Serv	3½	...	2.5	12.6
1½	0½	0.14	Sira Bus Wts	0¼	..	...	...
65½	17½	7.90	Sodra Petroleum	19½	.	..	..
72½	35½	2.49	Solid State Sp	39½	...	1.6	24.6
265	190½	9.89	Solitaire	215	.	3.5	19.6
35½	14½	3.48	Soundtracs	34½	+ 6	1.4	...
3½	1	3.23	South Beach Concepts	1¼	+ ¼	..	..
94½	62½	12.40	Southern Vectis	82½	...	4.6	9.0
99½	54½	18.00	Sports & Out Media	58½	+ 4	..	22.3
147½	127½	8.11	Springboard Venture Managers	147½	...	...	...
950	210	36.30	Staffware	285	+ 2½	0.9	38.2
157½	80	23.10	Stanford Rook	116	+ 40	...	...
196½	3½	1.11	Stentor	9½	- ½	...	...
71½	2		Stentor Warrants	3½	..	...	...
103½	84½	4.65	ScopeRule	84½	..	..	...
155	135	13.50	Sutton Harbour	135	...	3.4	19.1
9	4	0.54	Syst Integ Rsch	4	..	..	..
85½	50½	17.60	Systems Intl	61½	- 4	...	16.4
5½	3½	5.07	Talisman House	3½	...	..	..
2	1½	0.08	Talisman House Warrants	2	...	...	...
23	9	3.96	TDS Circuits	18½	...		29.7
67½	20½	6.08	Theo Fennell	37½	...	..	19.0
5½	4¼	9.50	Thomas Potts	4½	...	4.5	39.7
41½	15	1.96	Tom Hoskins	19	- ½	...	9.3
117½	54½	9.02	Total Office	58	...	11.6	7.8
145	95	8.31	Touchstone Grp	95	- 1½	1.3	13.7
70	15½	4.82	Tradepoint Fcl	16	- ½	..	..
102½	55½	8.74	Tricorder Tech	57½	...	...	..
160	140	6.24	Trinity Care	145	+ 1¼	4.7	13.1
170	145	1.28	Trinity Care Pf	145	...	6.5	...
200	141½	6.47	UA Group	185	...	3.1	17.2
39½	38	3.59	Univent	38½	...	...	18.8
235	132½	15.50	VDC	142½	- 2½	4.8	12.2
42½	8½	36.30	Victory Corp	11½	...	...	...
160	57½	2.12	Voss Net	60½	...	...	...
85½	26½	10.80	WML	37½	...	...	36.8
5	2¼	3.92	Weeks Group	2¼	...	5.0	7.1
57	45	3.30	West 175 Enter	60	...	...	...
£145	9500	8.39	West Bromwich	£115	...	...	13.3
13½	9	4.02	Western Selectn	9¼	+ ½	3.4	21.5
4½	1½	0.12	Western Sel Wts	2	...	...	...
300	33½	3.75	Westmount Engy	38½	- 4	...	...
2½	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
84½	56½	9.35	Wincester	72½	...	...	38.8
205	70	17.80	World Telecom	71	- 25	...	...
150	135	4.80	Wynnstay Props	150	...	4.4	14.9
13½	5½	10.60	Xavier Comp	10¼	- ¼	...	10.3
88½	54	4.22	Yeoman	55½	...	...	...
7	3	0.69	Zoor Mining	3	...	...	...

Family values light the way for fashion dynasty

Ruth Sullivan on how one tie brought Zegna, a discreet Italian textile house, unwonted fame

Hands-on: the Zegnas, from left, Anna, Gildo, Laura, Andrea, Paolo and Benedetta have made a virtue of keeping the business fully owned in their name and relying on a niche market, lightweight wools for the international businessman

For almost 90 years Ermenegildo Zegna, Italian textile manufacturer and fashion house, had cultivated a discreet image. Then Monica Lewinsky bought Bill Clinton a Zegna tie.

The extraordinary burst of publicity that followed shocked this distinguished, four-generations old company. Its homespun way of doing business has been based on a formula of high-quality raw materials, skilled craftsmanship, steady expansion into international markets, and cautious strategy managed by a closely knit family.

Over the past four years Zegna has grown rapidly, doubling its turnover to 875 billion lire (£324 million). It has a 30 per cent share of the top end of the menswear market from suits to more recent casualwear lines. Last year revenues increased to L875 billion from L740 billion in 1996, while net profit jumped to L93 billion from L63 billion over the same period. Currently, 80 per cent of annual revenues comes from overseas sales.

Typical of many small and medium-sized Italian family-run companies, which make up the backbone of the country's economy, Ermenegildo Zegna is run by six family members who follow a traditional hands-on business style. "Our approach to business is based on family values, discipline, on-the-spot management, learning by example and promotion through merit," said Gildo Zegna, who took over as joint managing director with his cousin Paolo this year.

Decision-making is shared among the Zegnas. The company's shares are split equally between the families of Angelo and Aldo, the fathers of Gildo and Paolo. Apart from the joint managing directors, Angelo, aged 74, is still active as group chairman, while Benedetta, his youngest daughter, is in charge of human resources and the promotion of company-owned and franchised boutiques, and Gildo's sister, Anna, runs the public relations side of the business.

Set up in 1910 by Ermenegildo Zegna in the Piedmontese Alps of northern Italy, the textile company modelled itself on the best British weavers of the day and then wooed away their customers.

The company started a ready-to-wear men's line in the 1960s, which was followed by knitwear, accessories and sportswear. The leap into retail came in the 1980s when the fourth generation of Zegnas opened the first store in Paris followed by a second in Milan. Rapid growth since then has increased the number of stores and boutiques to 241.

Keen to control its own stores, Zegna directly owns 40, while 166 are in-store outlets in department stores. A further 34 are franchised. New stores are opening this year in China, Osaka, Buenos Aires, Paris, Bilbao and Prague. Approximately half of the group's financial resources are reinvested in expansion.

Zegna's reputation has been built on high quality innovative fabrics, including a recent range of lightweight crease-free wools, which target the group's niche market, the international businessman. "Our fabrics and suits are made for the businessman who is in Hong Kong one day and London the next," Paolo said.

"Once you start wearing a Zegna suit, it feels so good that it's not easy to go back to the other suits in your wardrobe," said Massimo Faggioni, a Milan-based businessman who travels between Italy, Japan and Hong Kong. But at about L2 million (£750) the made-to-measure suits do not come cheaply, and even Monica Lewinsky's gift cost her £70.

The recent revival of interest in bespoke tailoring has prompted the company to set up a made-to-measure corner in all its shops, with an option to send a tailor to client homes. Next year, made-to-measure ties will be on the agenda, which might just trigger a demand for Bill Clinton look-alike ties.

Having succeeded in breaking into the luxury goods market with accessories, cashmere shawls and sweaters, Zegna is beginning to feel a slight chill from the downturn in the Asian economy. But unlike many bigger fashion houses such as Gucci, where 40 per cent of its sales were Asia-oriented, Zegna's presence in the region is small.

"This year we expect our Asia sales to drop 2 per cent to 22 per cent of overall revenues but we will be compensated by turnover in the US," said Paolo. With 60 per cent of sales spread across Europe, the US and the rest of the world, the company refuses to panic about depressed Far East markets.

On the textile side, Zegna has nurtured some of Europe's top fashion houses such as Versace, Armani, Jil Sander, Hermès, and the US designer Ralph Lauren. Versace has bought Zegna fabrics for its top menswear collections for almost 20 years, and in 1990 started up its Versace Classic V2 joint venture with the manufacturer.

Clinton tie may spur demand

Unlike Versace, which thrives on a cocktail of novelty and risk, caution is the byword at Zegna. Even when it comes to a logical shift into women's wear the move is viewed with doubt. "We prefer to do what we know best," said Paolo, who feels there is still room for further development in the menswear line.

Neither does he see any reason for going public and following the example of other luxury goods companies such as Gucci, Bulgari and Donna Karan. "We never say no, but we don't need it and we aim to stay a fully-owned family company," Paolo said.

In a volatile sector and a volcanic world economy, time will tell if he is right.

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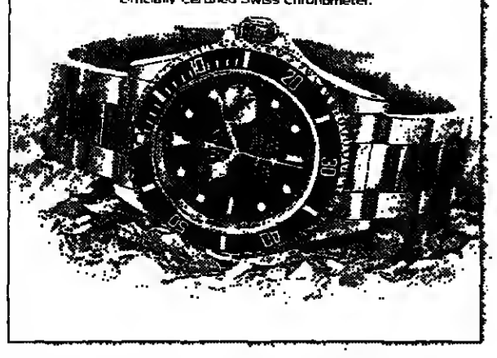

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Grade's restructuring plan stepped up at First Leisure

MICHAEL GRADE, chief executive of First Leisure, has unveiled the next step in his restructuring plan by promoting the head of the health and fitness division to the new role of director of support services.

The appointment of Patrick Henchoz to oversee areas such as personnel, marketing and technical services follows Mr Grade's decision to rationalise the group's regional offices and centralise all support services just outside Leicester.

Analysts believe Mr Henchoz is a strong candidate to be elevated to the main board, and that he could eventually succeed Mike Payne, 60, managing director of operations, when he retires. One analyst said: "It is clear that Henchoz is being groomed as Grade's right-hand man."

Mr Grade said the appointment was part of a restructuring following the group's recent exit from bingo and resorts in order to focus on bars and nightclubs, health and fitness and bowling centres.

He said: "The divisional structure was fine when we had five divisions. Now that we have got three, we felt the structure was cumbersome and that support services should be centralised. We've been scattered to the four winds."

The regional office closures, which should be completed within 12 months, will result in up to 20 job losses. "We've taken out a layer of management. We were getting a bit top heavy," he said. As *The Times* reported last week, Tony Spragg is being allowed to take early retirement after 28 years with the company.

The changes are seen as the next stage in Mr Grade's attempts to galvanise First Leisure by bringing in new blood.

Since a shareholder revolt over corporate governance this year he has brought in independent non-executive directors and split his own role as chairman and chief executive.

DOMINIC WALSH

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6657 (+0.0029)
German Mark
2.8140 (+0.0503)
Exchange index
101.3 (+1.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3296.9 (–50.5)
FTSE 100
5463.2 (-27.8)
New York Dow Jones
8919.59 (–55.87)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14268.21 (+146.24)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

THELYTOKY
(a) A parthogenesis. Diploid females are produced from unfertilised eggs, and males are absent (or very rare). There are two types. 1. Automictic, in which meiosis occurs, but reduction in chromosomes is corrected later in the life cycle. 2. Apomictic, in which the division of the eggs is equational. Either way sounds uncomfortable.

SEISES
(b) The choir boys who sing and dance and clash their castanets before the high altar in the Cathedral of Seville on great festival days. They used to do so also at Toledo and Valencia. The word means "six", but today there are ten seises. The music is fast, the boys' motions slow. The music is of no significance.

GAD
(a) It looks like a short length of piping. It is cut through axially, with some taper. Of uncertain origin and use. The Gad appears in the arms of the Ironmongers' Company. "Silver, a chevron of Gowlesc sitte betwene three gaddes of steel of azure." Possibly the Gad represents an iron scale sewn into leather for the articulated joints of plate armour.

SIDE-STRIPPER
(c) A fractionating column for removing undesirable volatile components from a side stream drawn off as a liquid from a main distilling column. More than one can be set up to operate on one main column.

Answer to winning move
1. Bb5+! Kxb5; 2. Rab1+ Kc4; 3. Rb4+ Kxc3; 4. Qa3+ Kc2; 5. Qc1 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Bagels, butter and song

Sound Stories: Puccini Cappoccini
BBC2, 7.30pm

Unkind viewers might feel that the true setting for this small gem is in the "And finally . . ." round-up on *News at Ten*. Well, perhaps the story of Franco Sartori, a London café-bar owner, doesn't stretch to half-an-hour but the man himself — belting out operatic arias while he butters his bagels — is so likeable and apparently guileless that he deserves his airtime. We — and his faintly embarrassed customers — can always place our orders somewhere else. And Sartori, who calls himself "the Cockney wop who sings op" isn't half bad. He delivers his Puccinis and Verdis in a perfectly acceptable tenor voice. We see him taking proper lessons and, finally, even making it to the stage for an amateur production of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Franco Sartori: "the Cockney wop who sings op" in *Sound Stories* (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Birds of a Feather: Ghost
BBC1, 8.30pm

Having recently moved into a cottage, which even my sanest friends agree could be haunted, I watched with more anxiety than a sitcom merits to see how Sharon and Tracey coped with a poltergeist. A cold presence in the living-room? Things that go bump in the night? Kitchen drawers unaccountably left open? We share them all. Even our kitchens look identical. Creepy. But seriously, it's always a pleasure to welcome back these two old pros (Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson) and their omnipresent neighbour Dorien (Lesley Joseph). This is the ninth series of the Marks and Gran creation and, as she so often does, Dorien steals the show when she attempts a "Jewish exorcism" — all flailing arms and incantations — on the unfortunate ghost.

Witness: Jonestown
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A remarkably bleak start to the latest series. Twenty years ago this week, 913 members of a quasi-religious cult, known in its San Francisco heyday as The People's Temple, apparently committed suicide. Nearly 200 of them were children. Jonestown, in the jungles of Guyana, had been built by the believers themselves — all races and religions — under the tutelage of their father", the hypnotic Rev Jim Jones. That Jones was a sadistic, power-mad lunatic only becomes clear as the few men and women who escaped the slaughter unfold their stories for the first time. Of course it wasn't mass suicide. We know that now — and a serious question mark hangs over the fact that the American Government left its intervention in the camp so late. When it did, its visiting congressman was promptly executed.

Vice: The Sex Trade
ITV, 9.00pm

Although this three-part series will obviously encourage voyeurism, it seems to take its brief seriously enough. Tonight's *Working Women* gives a slant on prostitutes which is not all gloom and doom and which certainly doesn't take sides. The ladies who speak up for themselves seem a gutsy, coherent lot — one, the apparently permanently lactating "Milkmaid Leila", thoroughly enjoys treating men, quite literally, as babies. Nappy-clad caterer Rick is even brave (or insane) enough to allow cameras into Leila's baby room to watch it all happen. Of the other girls, one game 61-year old says she'd "rather work in a charity shop, but really this is sort of the same thing". With some of the younger prostitutes (or escorts) the future seems as dead as the look in their eyes. Next week, the punters — and, let's hope, a sharper insight into why the game not only continues but is expanding.

Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Magnum at the Millennium
Radio 3, 9.35pm

The Magnum photo agency was founded by Robert Kapa and Henri Cartier-Bresson in 1947 and it can fairly be said that Magnum quickly became the most renowned such agency in the world. Its distinguishing feature has been a determination to work everywhere in the world where something worth photographing is going on and the result is that it has helped make huge reputations for some of its photographers. This programme is the first of five on Radio 3 this week which celebrates 50 years of the agency by focusing on its millennial project, which is to build a portfolio of pictures of every aspect of life around the world. Todays programme, *The Way the World Washes*, is about domestic life as it is lived by the poorest and the richest.

Revenge!
Radio 4, 3.30pm

A programme running all week in 15-minute chunks. And fascinating they are, including some salutary warnings for anyone who might be expecting to provoke fury in another. Ian Peacock reveals today that there is even a website for revenge, on which people can find out how to poison their wife's lover, order a dozen dead roses or a tombstone. The novelist Kathy Lette recalls her revenge on a man who left her for another woman: Lette and an accomplice took down the man's curtains, put prawns on the hooks and replaced the curtains. Pest control was called in to no effect, the new couple split up and eventually the man moved out: the vengeance being discovered only when the removal men arrived.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Kevin Greening **12.30pm** Newsbeat **1** 2.00 Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live **12.00** The Breakzeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** John Inverdale **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Up a Lazy River with George Melly (8/8) **9.30** The Rock 'n' Roll Years, Presented by Brian Matthew **10.30** Nicky Horne **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO S LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News. Lunchtime news and sport round-up, plus weather and financial advice **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra. Presented by David McNeil **7.30** Family Affairs Series interviewing famous sporting families **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Nottingham Forest v Derby County **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Jonathan Ross **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Bobby Hain **7.30** Harriet Scott **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton **6.00** The Breakfast Show **9.00** Scott Chisholm **11.00** Lorraine Kelly **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Nick Abbot **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf. Hemingway Short Stories **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Pop on the Line **9.00** News, (648 only) News in German **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Record News **9.30** Westway Access **9.45** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Omnibus **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Jazzmatazz **12.00pm** News **12.05** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Seven Days **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Chill Out **3.00** World News, (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway Access **3.30** Pop the Question **4.00** News **4.15** Seven Days **4.30** Insight, (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Brain of Britain 1998; (648 only) News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Heritage **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Insight **10.45** Sports Round-Up **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Hit List **12.00am** Newsdesk **12.30** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Wood, Guts and Brass **2.00** Newsday **2.30** On Screen **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Round-Up **3.30** The Idea of the City **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Albinoni (Oboe Concerto No 11 in B flat major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest news stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds with John Brunning **9.00** Evening Concert. Bach (English Suite No 3 in G minor), Beethoven (O Welche Lust); Tippett (A Child of Our Time) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Haydn (Sinfonia concertante in B flat); Chopin (Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23); Poulenc (Les Chemins de l'Amour)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Dukas (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat, K270); Rameau (Les Niais de Sologne, Pieces de Clavecin); Poulenc (Concert champetre). Brahms (German Folk Songs); Silvestri (Pieces for Strings); Chabrier (Valses Romantiques)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Mackerras
11.00 Sound Stories Peggy Reynolds tells the story of George Eliot, born Mary Anne Evans
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Johannes Brahms
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Michael Collins, clarinet. Richard Watkins, horn, Robin O'Neill, bassoon, Isabelle van Keulen and Peter Brunt, violins, Dermot Poppen, viola, Frans Helmerson, cello, Mary Scully, double bass. Schubert (Octet in F, D803)
2.05 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alun Francis, Martyn Brabbins and Osmo Vanska, with Martin Roscoe, piano. Brahms (Serenade No 1 in D); Ignaz Brull (Piano Concerto No 1); Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D)
4.00 Opera in Action Ruth Mackenzie introduces a selection of highlights focusing on ensembles
4.45 Music Machine Verity Sharp spends a week with cellists and composers for some of the latest thoughts on the cello
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty explores cabaret music with the soprano Alexandra Valavelsky
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Sergei Alekseshkin, bass, London Symphony Chorus (bass voices), London Symphony Orchestra under Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich (Dresden In Ruins; Film music: Five Days — Five Nights, Symphony No 12, The Year 1917, Symphony No 13, Babi yar)
9.35 Postscript: Magnum at the Millennium Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism. See Choice
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside packs his bags for a round trip to the world's great cities in song
10.45 Mixing It Mark Russell and Robert Sandall host an all-CD edition
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to Carol Kidd about the songs and singers that have influenced her career
12.00am Composer of the Week: Debussy (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today Presented by Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme hosted by Jeremy Paxman, with guests Bill Bryson, David Cannadine and A S Byatt
9.45 (FM) Serial: Alistair Cooke — A Celebration A tribute to the broadcaster as he celebrates his 90th birthday
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From All Saints' Church, Fawley
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 East End Law The work of a team of solicitors at the Hackney Community Law Centre (2/2)
11.30 Nemesis Second in a live-part dramatisation of the Agatha Christie novel
12.00 (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Round Britain Quiz The Midlands take on Northern Ireland in the cultural quiz
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Ironies — An Imaginative Woman Eric Pringle's drama about a woman longing to meet her poet hero. With Amanda Root, Sean Baker and Shirley Dixon
3.00 Money Box Live Call 0171-580 4444. Presented by Vincent Duggleby
3.30 Revenge! Ian Peacock finds out what type of people carry out acts of revenge. See Choice (1/5)
3.45 Revenge! — Making Arrangements Elizabeth Bowen's tale of a husband who accepts his wife has left him — until a letter from her arrives (1/4)
4.00 The Food Programme Investigation into new regulations on fat content in milk (r)
4.30 Turning World with Jenni Murray and guests
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Motion Show The debating game
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson searches out the best car chases in Hollywood's history
7.45 Still Waters by Ann Marie Di Mambro. Starring Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Cunie (r)
8.00 Managing Life Edi Stark meets friers at Glenochil Jail in Scotland (1/4)
8.30 Analysis Frances Cairncross examines the role and power of the multinational in today's economy
9.00 Nature: Bees in the Desert Gerry Northam traces the history and conservation of bees in Arizona's Sonora Desert
9.30 Start the Week D (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Isabel Hilton **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes** Philip Franks reads Alain-Fournier's story (8/10) (r)
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Sue Lawley appeals on behalf of Triumph Over Phobia (r)
11.02 Late Night on 4: Kailyard Blues Final part of the comedy set in Scotland. With Bill Paterson, Alexander Morton, Ashley Jensen and Ralph Riach (4/4)
11.30 (FM) Aerial Views Jennifer Cox meets broadcasters from around Europe, starting with Sean Lovett of Radio Vaticana at the Vatican City (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament A roundup of the day's news from Westminster
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: A Man In Full Part one of Tom Wolfe's new novel about a businessman in trouble. Read by William Hootkins
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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NOVEMBER 16 1998

und song

American 'innocence' v British cynicism

Two thirds of the way through **A Royal Celebration** (ITV, Saturday) Greg Proops, the gawky American stand-up from *Whose Line Is It Anyway* (And Does Anybody Care Any More?), launched into his routine about British cynicism. What *chutzpah*! Proops treats the entire nation, including the audience gazing up at him, as the butt of his contemptuous satire. We give lousy service, can't bear to enjoy anything and guzzle vast quantities of alcohol with noisy desperation. Apparently.

Proops has only two Brit voices, a yob (well observed) and a toff (from a prewar film) and uses them indiscriminately. Some of his "observations" have not been accurate for 20 years, and then only partially so. But, annoyingly, he has a point. We are a nation of scoffers who can't bear to take the wholesome innocent fun of theme parks patrolled by giant Mickey Mice at face value. Better glum than dumb, we sneer. Better sad than "sad".

But we are also secretly jealous, and a corner of us would just love to be Americans. The show demonstrated this rather neatly. It really wanted to fête the Prince of Wales with one of those sickly, Hollywood-style showbiz birthday tributes (sorry, Greg), dripping with narco-sycophancy, but didn't quite have the nerve.

In fact it began with a kind of legal disclaimer from Rowan Atkinson as a Caroline Blackadder. "It is a well and long-established fact that royal galas are very, very, very dull!" he declared, before berating the "all-singing, all-dancing, no talent tedium that represents British variety talent at its best".

So when things got deeply naff, which they did fairly frequently, it didn't *matter* because we knew they knew, you know. As in a Hollywood celebration award tribute, much of the show depended entirely on recognition. Enter celebrity (rapturous applause). "Hi! It's me! And here's some of that stuff I do!" (gales of laughter). "Specially adapted to include a reference to Prince Charles!" (hurricane-force merriment). Exit bowing, blowing kisses and so forth (more rapturous applause).

But there were many wonderful moments, such as Matthew from Circus Oz and his stunning comedy trampoline act, or Stephen Fry almost making himself corpse while reading a deliciously corny parody of *Dracula*. "I stooped to pick a buttercup. Why people leave buttocks lying around, I've no idea." (Fry chews inside of own cheek.) Or Ulrika Jonsson recalling how she crossed the Black Sea from Sweden to England. They haven't tried that on *Gladiators*.

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

The final indignity was saved till last. The Artiste Formerly Known as Ginger sang *Happy Birthday To You* to the Prince. When Marilyn Monroe, possibly the most intense embodiment of American female sexuality ever, sang this to JFK, the moment was supercharged with sensuality and, in hindsight, with disturbed melancholy. What a comparison to set up. Now that really was sad.

If they wanted real cynicism they should have had the show presented by Jonathan Meades. The *Times* restaurant critic, novelist and commentator on the cultural life of architecture was let loose on his native Worcestershire in **Travels With Pevsner** (BBC2, Saturday). This series retraces the steps of the German-born Nikolaus Pevsner as he produced, between 1949 and 1974, a comprehensive guide to British architecture.

Meades was extremely respectful to Pevsner's project, and told us that he takes the guides everywhere with him; but he was much more critical of the detail. The claim that Hanbury Hall is archetypically English was ridiculed, for instance, as the style is self-evidently Dutch. In a priceless sequence, Meades read Pevsner's description of the chapel at Madresfield Court, the model for Brideshead in *Brideshead Revisited*, alongside Evelyn Waugh's descripoon in the novel. It was a telling point: Pevsner's description a meaningless list of features, artists and craftsmen, Waugh's a vivid subjective portrait.

Above all, Meades is angry. As a child he walked the hills of A.E. Housman country with his two uncles. One was called Uncle Wangle, so it was reassuring to be told he was not an abused child. But Meades deplores the *ersatz* Englishness and morbid nostalgia of Housman and his works, and sees through that artificial construct, the natural landscape.

He hates English Heritage and its "wretched stewardship", restoring buildings which should be left as picturesque ruins; and the National Trust, whose "distressed gentlefolk" are the "screws" of the imprisoned buildings they control. And he hates Victorian public school architecture, embodying the "ignoble tradition of man's inhumanity to boys". He even takes side-swipes at fellow journalists. Pevsner could be "as banal as Bill Bryson", apparently. Miaow.

His playful wit emerges in the form of oddball inserts. He put on Ruud Gullit dreadlocks and shades to illustrate the point about Dutch architecture (it made him look like Victor Lewis-Smith, but not to worry); and he put on a huge powdered wig to get milk squirted in his face in another jest too laboured to explain.

But Meades's is righteous wrath. He responds to the life of buildings and places with an insight and intensity which is slightly scary, and with real passion. His cynicism is the cynicism of somebody who actually cares about moral truths, who sees into the life of things and often finds it rather unpleasant. Sorry, Mr Proops but, on balance, I prefer it to Mickey Mouse.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (39535)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (61451)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8556239)
9.40 Style Challenge (9455790)
10.05 City Hospital (9599603)
10.55 News (T) (9359887)
11.00 Real Rooms (9369264)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9362351)
11.55 News (T) (8218626)
12.00 Pass the Buck (4990061) **12.25pm** Going for a Song (4813968) **12.50** The Weather Show (T) (24611500)
1.00 News (T) and weather (13968)
1.30 Regional News (T) (73322622)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (67878239)
2.05 Ironside (r) (T) (9101429) **2.55** Wipeout (r) (2394622)
3.25 Playdays (r) (6050806) **3.45** Enchanted Lands (r) (8463500) **3.55** Little Monsters (3608061) **4.00** The Animal Magic Show (T) (4712719) **4.15** Alvin and the Chipmunks (T) (9255061) **4.40** Goosebumps. Part two (T) (2325603) **5.00** Newsround (T) (4564429) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5706326)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (712852)
6.00 News (T) and weather (871)
6.30 Regional News (T) (351)
7.00 This is Your Life (T) (3245)
7.30 Here and Now Chris Choi reports on lottery losers who thought fortune had smiled on them (T) (535)
8.00 EastEnders Rosa receives an offer from George she can hardly afford to refuse. Alex goes looking for Melanie (T) (2993)
8.30 CHOICE **Birds of a Feather: Ghost** New series of the popular comedy. Tracey's video recorder becomes possessed, so she moves in with Dorien. With Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph (T) (8500)
9.00 News (T) and weather (1622)
9.30 Ab Fab: The Collection The final compilation of highlights from the award-winning comedy *Absolutely Fabulous* focuses on June Whitfield's portrayal of Mother (T) (41622)
10.00 Panorama In-depth investigations on topical issues (T) (920719)
10.40 They Think It's All Over Sporting quiz, with Frank Leboeuf, Alan Davies and Arthur Smith joining regulars Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and David Gower. Nick Hancock hosts (r) (T) (312245)
11.10 On Side Tottenham striker Les Ferdinand and South Africa's former rugby union captain, François Pienaar join John Inverdale. Plus: a tribute to Pelé (671871)
11.55 Chicago Hope Kate resists her father's faith; and Aaron comes clean about his dad (T) (643603)
12.40am Weird Science (T) (3115562)
1.05 The Hellfire Club (1960) Romantic melodrama, with Keith Michell. The estranged son of an 18th-century nobleman returns home to claim his inheritance after years on the road with a travelling circus. *Directed by* Robert S. Baker and Monty Berman (7132765)
2.30 Weather (5364562)
2.35 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am Autism (3063326) **6.35** The World's Best Athlete? (T) (9938429) **7.00** Tales of Aesop (r) (5604500) **7.05** Teletubbies (r) (2415142) **7.30** Tom and Jerry Kids (2217581) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5519871) **8.20** Robinson Sucroe (r) (T) (9282516) **8.45** Penny Crayon (6997622) **8.55** Tales of Aesop (r) (5486993)
9.00 Job Bank (7421968) **9.10** Short Circuit (5809142) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (8539061) **9.45** Storytime (8534516) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (62790) **10.30** Words and Pictures (3092142) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3097697) **11.00** Look and Read (9798784) **11.20** Zig Zag (4240887) **11.40** Landmarks (1146784) **12.05pm** History Fila (4997974)
12.30 Working Lunch (56500)
1.00 Penny Crayon (r) (98252177) **1.10** Sophia Grigson's Herbs (43169177) **1.15** The History Hour: Bradford (r) (815177) **2.15** Top Gear Motorsport: Rally Australia, the penultimate round of the *World Championship. Last in series* (942055) **2.45** News (T)
2.50 On Cue Kirk Stevens' 147 break at the 1984 Benson and Hedges Masters. Plus, the career of women's champion Allison Fisher (6231055) **3.25** News (T) **3.30** Gardeners' World (r) (T) (429)
4.00 Changa That (r) (T) (3510852) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (3520239) **4.55** Lowri (5388413) **5.30** Celebrity Today's the Day (T) (500)
6.00 The Simpsons With the voice of Sam Neill (r) (T) (446500)
6.25 Space 1999 (r) (773564)
7.15 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (187245)
7.30 CHOICE **Sound Stories: Puccini Cappuccini** Soho sandwich bar owner Franco Sartori, serenades his customers with operatic arias (177)

Ray Mears, Kate Humble and Anna Grayson examine uses of rock (8pm)

6.00 The Essential Guide to Rocks: Earth Story The subtle influence of rocks on whisky making (T) (9185)
6.30 Food and Drink Warm chicken liver salad; bottled beers. With guest chef Antonio Carluccio (T) (6142)
9.00 Tha Cops Danny'a search for a missing child is hampered (T) (838603)
9.50 Ads Infinitum Vintage cinema adverts (T) (946264)
10.00 Big Train Sketch show (13036)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (457448)
11.20 The Baby Business Natural childbirth. Last in series (128719) **11.55** Weather (579784) **12.00** Despatch Box (35920)
12.30am Learning Zone: The Growing Child (80982) **1.00** First Steps to Autonomy (26833) **1.30** Deaf-Blind Education in Russia (31253) **2.00** Technology (76562) **4.00** Sueños World Spanish (87814) **5.00** Skills for Work (2966123) **5.45** Organelles and Origins (8852524)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (9069351)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3820528)
10.15 This Morning Guests include Michael Crawford (T) (808852)
12.15 pm Regional News (3628055)
12.30 News (T) and weather (50326)
1.00 WALES: Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (82644)
1.00 Stepping the World (82644) **1.30** Home and Away (T) (59697) **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (T) (8798167)
2.40 WALES: The Pulse (2390806)
2.40 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2390806)
3.10 News (T) (7808790)
3.15 Regional News (7807061)
3.20 Wizadora (r) (2836993) **3.35** Titch (7105581) **3.50** Sooty and Co (T) (2301697) **4.15** Art Attack (T) (839142) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (7744871)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners (4783332)
5.10 Animal Country (4783332)
5.40 News (T) and weather (611784)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (440326)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (315535)
6.25 HTV Weather (244719)
6.30 The West Tonight (719)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (839061)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (5413)
7.30 Coronation Street Tony gets another visit from his creditors but Des takes the full force of their rage (T) (603)
8.00 World in Action A report on the impact of potentially life-threatening hoax calls to the emergency services (T) (7061)
8.30 Great Escapes A knife-edge air drama; and the battle to save a baby elephant in Africa (T) (3528)

Leila: a vice girl who offers a baby-sitting service with a difference (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Vice: The Sex Trade** First of a three-part report on prostitution (T) (9581)
10.00 News (T) and weather (25142)
10.30 Regional News (374871)
10.40 Veronica'a Closet Ronnie pretends she's still married to Bryce while hosting a Thanksgiving dinner (T) (234413)
11.10 Dharma and Greg Dharma and Greg enter a dancing competition (T) (817516)
11.40 Stuff the Week A satirical swipe at the week's news (248622)
12.10am The Making of Still Crazy (7425123)
12.40 Football Extra (1517727)
1.40 World Football (r) (5309475)
2.10 Club@vision (2603727)
2.50 Trisha (r) (T) (9319272) **3.40** World in Action (r) (T) (21028475) **4.05** An Invitation to Remember (52815494) **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (91384) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (88185) **5.30** News (30475)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm Echo Point (82644)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9725210)
2.40-3.10 High Road (2390806)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4783332)
6.25-7.00 Central News (315535)
12.10am Public Morals (7425123)
2.05 Club@vision (3288291)
2.45 Trisha (9338307)
3.30 World in Action (21022291)
3.55 Central Jobfinder '98 (1928475)
5.20 Asian Eye (3729456)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (3628055)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9046535)
1.00 High Road (82644)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9725210)
2.40-3.10 Dig It with Den (2390806)
5.08 Birthday Peopla (9313429)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4783332)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (31245)
12.10am Public Morals (7425123)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.30 News and Weather (3628055)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (82644)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3670429)
2.35-3.10 Quids In (5049429)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4783332)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (239)
6.30-7.00 Streetwise (719)
12.10am Public Morals (7425123)
5.00 Freescreen (88185)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9040351)
1.00-1.30 Split Second (82644)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3670429)
2.35-3.10 Look and Cook (5049429)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4783332)
6.23 Anglia Weather (245448)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (315535)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (621603)
12.10am Public Morals (7425123)

S4C

Starts: **7.00 Big Breakfast** (32149) **9.00** *English Programme* (2483239) *9.25* **Schools at Work** (5726993) **9.30 Geography Junction** (8531429) **9.45 Book Box** (8456784) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (3098784) **10.15 Off Limits** (3184535) **10.30 Place and People** (9837326) **10.50 Stop Look Listen** (6576993) **11.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (4168239) **11.15 The Mix** (4247790) **11.30 Here's One I Mada Earlier** (9697) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (22055) **12.30 Sesame St** (58968) **1.00 Planed Plant** (98165697) **1.15** *Ding Dong* (98153852) **1.30 FILM: Storm Centre** (68993) **3.00 Garden Doctors** (4974) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (697) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (332) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (516) **5.00 Planed Plant** (8781429) **5.15 Ffeil** (4569974) **5.30 Countdown** (968) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (995806) **6.10 Heno** (149429) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (829719) **7.25 Meca** (233887) **8.00 John Ac Alun** (5603) **8.30 Newyddion** (1210) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (4332) **9.30** *Sgorio* (6230413) **10.35 Anatomy of Desire** (171516) **11.35 Driven** (247993) **12.05am Rory Bremner: Who Else?** (5787253) **12.50 FILM: Guncrazy** (646388) **2.35 Diwedd** (2350630) **4.00 Ysgolion** (209299)

CHANNEL 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (32149)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T) (2483239) **9.25** Schools at Work (5726993) **9.30** Geography *Junction* (8531429) **9.45** Book Box (8458784) **10.00** Stage Two Science: Habitats (3098784) **10.15** Off Limits (3184535) **10.30** Place and People (9837326) **10.50** Stop Look Listen (6576993) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (4168239) **11.15** The Mix (4247790)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (9697) **12.00** Sesame Street (22055) **12.30pm** Brookside (r) (T) (58968)
1.00 Judge Jo Brown New series with the American judge, offering his own brand of justice in actual cases (T) (5146158)
1.35 Ocean World of John Stoneman (T) (67958429)
2.05 Out of the Clouds (1954) Romantic potboiler in the skies sees Robert Beatty convinced ha has lost girlfriend Eunice Gayson to pilot Anthony Steel. Directed *by Basil Dearden* (T) (4877806)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (697) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (332) **4.30** Countdown (T) (7827158) **4.55** Montel Williams (T) (5373581)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (T) (968)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (581)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (531)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (994351)
7.50 Talking Heads *First of four daily* programmes about life in today's schools. Tonight: headteachers on their role of guiding children through to adulthood (T) (399546)
8.00 Now One is 50: Charles Windsor's School Days Prince Charles was the first heir to the throne to go to school. With contributions from schoolmates, teachers, and commentators (T) (3577)

The harrowing story of Jim Jones and his fanatical followers (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Witness: Jonestown** The story of Jim Jones, whose community of 913 committed mass suicide (T) (3351)
10.00 Anatomy of Desire (1/4) New series looks at human sexuality. Includes a visit to Naked City in the United States (T) (7270806)
11.05 Return of the Ba Ba Zee Return of the zone devoted to black life (T) (355351) **11.06** Crazy, Sexy, Cool (606177) **12.10am** Driving Miss Crazy (4759497)
12.25 Mixing Nia (1997) Romantic comedy drama about a mixed-race woman searching for her racial identity, directed by Alison Swan (232949)
2.10 Videoplaya (1200291) **2.40** Booked (r) (T) (8590611) **3.20** Dispatches (r) (T) (52757475) **3.45** Small War (r) (36654253)
4.00 Schools: History in Action (7259433) **4.55** History in Action (5542901) **5.45** All About Us (8870920)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charga. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News and Sport (2879516) **7.00** WideWorld (r) (T) (6535993) **7.30** Milkshake! (7860185)
7.35 What-A-Mess (r) (1056429) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (2869871) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (2868142)
9.00 The Great House Game (r) (T) (7788210) **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4614806) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (1901559) **10.20** Sunset Beach (T) (2472535) **11.10** Leeza (r) (9314500)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2942158) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (7700326) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6534264) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (7709697) **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (5017210) **2.30** Good Afternoon (6502993)
3.30 Bury Me in Niagara (1993, TVM) Supernatural comedy with Jean Stapleton and Geraint Wyn Davies. During an operation on a Japanese gangster, a doctor discovers a rare jewel. He gives it to his mother who mysteriously dies a few days later. Directed by Dave Thomas (2505451)
5.20 The Roseanne Show (1342531)
6.00 100 Per Cent (5695974)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (5513326)
7.00 5 News (T) (5028326)
7.30 Wild World How the Kuna Indians of Panama spiritually protect their environment (T) (5502210)

Jonathan Pedley and Keith Floyd explore the Rhône Valley (8pm)

8.00 Floyd Uncorked Côte du Rhône Villages and Crozes Hermitage wines (T) (5100974)
8.30 The Antiques Hunter (T) (5016581)
9.00 Janek: A Silent Betrayal (1994, TVM) Thriller with Richard Crenna and William Shatner. A police lieutenant feels that the key to the murder of six tenants in a building lies within the building's history. *Directed by Robert Iscove* (81369177)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update (4312055)
10.55 A Boy Called Hate (1995) Road movie with Scott Caan and James Caan. A juvenile delinquent flees after shooting a rapist and, along with the rapist's victim and a loaded gun, sets out on a voyage of self-discovery (T) (15280516)
12.45am NFL American Football — Live Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (85569456)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2821017)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (1772098)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Earthworm Jim (34429) **7.30** The Simpsons (46264) **8.00** The Simpsons (49790) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (48061) **9.00** Sarah — Surviving Life (29185) **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (42448) **11.00** Oprah (59784) **12.00** Jenny Jones (1236210) **12.55pm** The Special K Collection (38576429) **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9681974) **1.55** The Special K Collection (65834993) **2.00** Sally Jessy *Raphael* (8257535) **2.55** The Special K Collection (4997622) **3.00** Jenny Jones (8647555) **3.55** The Special K Collection (2810500) **4.00** Sarah — Surviving Life (95993) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (2158) **6.00** Married with Children (7719) **6.30** Friends (8871) **7.00** The Simpsons (3887) **7.30** Real TV (4055) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (14516) **9.00** Sliders (21852) **10.00** South Park (50806) **10.30** Seinfeld (63326) **11.00** Friends (96622) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (16332) **12.30am** Renegade (11098) **1.30** Long Play (4246253)

SKY BOX OFFICE

To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
GI Jane (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Volcano (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Gone Fishin' (1997)
***LA Confidential* (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Nothing to Lose (1997)

FILMFOUR

Channel 4's film subscription channel. For subscription details, ring 0800 44 1234

6.00pm Crimewave (1985) (2940351) **8.00 Don Juan De Marco (1995)** (86345852) **10.00 The Madness of King George (1994)** (7347516) **12.00 Barton Fink (1991)** (4111185) **2.00am Public Access (1994)** (3505949) **3.30 Crimewave (1985)** (9740678)

SKY MOVIEMAX

6.00am Seasons of the Heart (1994) (32687) **7.30 Family Blessings (1996)** (42210) **0.00 Alaska (1996)** (27697) **11.00 Where the Red Fern Grows (1974)** (27987) **1.00pm Where the Red Fern Grows: Part Two (1990)** (21413) **3.00 Seasons of the Heart (1994)** (27448) **5.00 Family Blessings (1996)** (52210) **7.00 Alaska (1996)** (32061) **9.00 Vows of Deception (1996)** (39871) **11.00 Kiss of a Stranger (1997)** (382326) **12.35am Hard Men (1996)** (3996098) **2.05 Breaking the Waves (1996)** (62184185)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Princess Bride (1987) (88535) **0.00 Lies He Told (1996)** (50513) **10.00 The Santa Clause (1994)** (87448) **12.00 Princess Bride (1987)** (28326) **2.00pm Lies He Told (1996)** (32326) **3.30 Barry *Norman's Film Night*** (4245) **4.00 The Santa Clause (1994)** (8332) **6.00 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (33697) **6.00 The Odyssey (1997)** (156974) **10.30 Sleepers (1996)** (49391603) **12.55am A Thin Line Between Love and Hate (1996)** (901727) **2.45 Original Gangstas (1996)** (403982) **4.30 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (25098)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Magic Town (1947) (1564697) **6.00 Term of Trial (1962)** (8491264) **8.00 Black Windmill (1974)** (8390591) **10.00 The Front Page (1975)** (9031264) **11.45 Mr Majestyk (1974)** (2722790) **1.30am The Kremlin Letter (1970)** (23875920) **3.35 King Kong (1933)** (94574543)

TNT

9.00pm An American in Paris (1951) (21215158) **11.00 The Bad and the Beautiful (1950)** (51097993) **1.00am Cool Breeze (1972)** (51982017) **3.00 An American in Paris (1951)** (60544562)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** Athletics **10.00** Scottish Football **11.00** FA Cup Football **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** What a Weekend **5.00** World Pool Masters **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Monday Night Football **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** League Review **11.30** V-Max **12.00** *Sports Centre* **12.15am** Monday Night Football **2.15** League Review **3.15** Sports Centre **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Racing News **8.00** World Pool Masters **9.00** NASCAR **11.00** Cricket Special: Tribute to the Don **12.30pm** Saturday Fight Night **2.30** Drag Racing **3.30** Cricket Special **5.00** League Review **6.00** Table Tennis **7.00** World Motor Sport **11.00** Table Tennis **12.00** World Windsurfing **12.30am** Watersports World **1.30** V-Max **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 NFL: American Football **3.30pm** NASCAR **5.30** V-Max **6.00** Pool: The Duel 1998 **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** World Windsurfing **8.30** Wrestling: Survivor Series **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Bobsleigh **9.00** Weightlifting **10.30** Rugby Union: World Cup Qualifying **12.00** *Supercross* **1.00pm** *Triathlon* **1.30** Adventure: X Terra **2.00** Weightlifting **4.00** IndyCar Season Review **5.30** Tennis: Senior Tour of Champions — Live **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Tractor Pulling **0.00** Eurogoals **10.30** Tennis: Chase Championships — Live **12.00** Adventure: X Terra **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **2.30** Bergerac **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** *Neighbours* **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** Bergerac **4.55** EastEnders **5.30** Angels **6.00** Due South **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Voice of the Heart **10.50** Sports Anorak of the Year **11.25** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** The Chef **1.25** Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test **1.55** The Gaffer **2.25** Shopping With Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *The Box* **7.00** *Doctor in the House* **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** Surgical Spirit **8.30** A Fine Romance **0.00** Coronation St **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** E! Special: Inside 'Thirtysomething' **11.00** Hawaii Five O **12.00** Coronation St **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Piglet Files **1.30** Watching **0.00** Thirtysomething **2.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hawaii Five O **8.00** Emmerdale Farm **8.30** Coronation St **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Professionals **9.00** Coronation St **9.30** *Sez Les* **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE]

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Pull the Other One **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Get Back **11.30** My Two Wives **10.00** Pull The Other One **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

Nigel Hawthorne gives an Oscar-winning performance as the eccentric monarch in *The Madness of King George* (FilmFour)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.40** Gummi Bears **7.00** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **8.45** *Winnie the Pooh* **0.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.00** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.15** Tots TV **10.30** Let's Wiggle! **10.35** The Big Garage **10.50** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** Let's Wiggle! **1.35** The Big Garage **1.50** PB and J Otter **2.00** Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** Aladdin **4.10** 101 Dalmatians **4.40** An Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Microsoap **5.45** Recess **6.00** The Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Pepper Ann **7.15** Brotherly Love **7.45** Microsoap **8.00 FILM: Ernest Goes to School** **9.30** Microsoap **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **9.00** Goosebumps **8.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **0.00** Masked Rider **9.30** The Incredible Hulk **10.00** Iron Man **10.30** X-Men **11.00** Spiderman **11.30** Life with Louie **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **12.45** Toonsylvania **1.00** Sam and Max **1.15** Home to Rent **1.30** The Incredible Hulk **2.00** Iron Man **2.30** X-Men **8.00** Spiderman **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Ace Ventura **0.00** Goosebumps **5.30** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.00** Donkey Kong Country **8.30** Mowgli: The Jungle Book **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am *Fraggle Rock* **6.30** *Muppet Babies* **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **0.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/wor the Engine/Magic Mountain/Captain Pugwash/Oscar and **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Rocky and the Dodos/Bagpuss/Mr Men **2.30** CBBC **6.00** CBBC **3.30** Angry Beavers **4.00** Catdog **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **0.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am California Dreams **7.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** USA High **9.00** Heartbreak High **10.00** Sweat **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** USA High **12.00** Ready or Not **12.30pm** Sweat **1.00** Heartbreak High **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** California Dreams **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** USA High **4.00** The Fresh Prince of *Bel-Air* **4.30** In the House **8.00** Sweet Valley High **5.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** In the House **7.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **9.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Crosswits **5.30** Challenge Prize Time **5.45** Family Fortunes **6.15** Challenge Prize Time **6.30** Catchphrase **7.00** Challenge Prize Time **7.15** 100 Per Cent **7.45** *Challenge Prize Time* **7.55** *The Crystal Maze* **9.00** Challenge Prize Time **9.15** Strike it Lucky **9.45** Challenge Prize Time **10.00** Endurance UK **10.30** Challenge Prize Time **10.45** The Cooler **11.15** Challenge Prize Time **11.30** Carnal Knowledge **12.30am** Treasure Hunt **1.30** The Pyramid Game **0.00** Crosswits **2.30** Family Fortunes **3.00** Endurance UK **3.30** Blockbusters **4.00** Fifteen-to-One **4.30** Give Us a Clue **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The Extremists **8.30** Bushido **9.00** The Men Who Killed Kennedy **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex: Sexy Sci-fi Drama **11.00 FILM: They Live (1988)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Scary Sex: Sexy Sci-fi Drama **2.05** The Men Who Killed Kennedy **3.05 FILM: Happy Hooker Goes to Washington (1977)** **0.00** Freaky Stories **5.30** Bushido

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmonds **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Ellen **0.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** The Jack Dee Show **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** The Late Show **1.00am** Sledgehammer **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Girls on Top **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
9.00 Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Max Headroom **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Amazing Stories **4.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **0.00** Sightings **8.30** Earthscan Special **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Fluke (1995)** **12.00** Sightings **12.30am** Earthscan Special **1.00 FILM: And the Walls Came Tumbling Down (1984)** **2.30** Tales of the Unexpected **3.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am The Joy of Painting **6.30** Gardeners' Diary **7.00** Garden Doctors **7.30** These Four Walls **8.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **8.30** Furniture On the Mend **8.00** The Joy of Painting **0.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** These Four Walls **11.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **11.30** Furniture On the Mend **12.00** Home Again **12.30pm** Room for Improvement **1.00** Cooksabout **1.30** In the Workshop **2.00** This Old House **2.30** The Diceman **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** These Four Walls

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing World **4.30** Wheel Nuts **5.00** First Flights **5.30** Ancient Warriors **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Wild Discovery: Ultimate Guide **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** *Raging Planet* **10.00** *Hidden Agendas:* Breaking the Sound Barrier **11.00** A Spitfire's Story **12.00** The Great Egyptians **1.00am** First Flights **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00 Wild at Heart **12.30pm** Wildlife Days **1.00** Animal Doctor **1.30** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **2.00** ESPU **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Zoo Story **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Wildlife SOS **5.00** Harry's Practice **5.30** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **0.00** Kratt's Creatures **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Animal Planet Classics: Australia 5 **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.30** Into the Blue **9.00** Hunters of the Coral Reef **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Vet **10.30** Australia Wild **11.00** The Big Animal Show **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Elephant Journeys **8.00** Dinosaurs **9.00** Natural Born Killers: Komodo Dragons **10.00** Mountain Barrier **11.00** Beyond the Clouds **12.00** Sex, Lives and Holes in the Skies

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Civil War: The People's Resolution **5.00** The Story of the Gun, Wild Frontiers **0.00** Ancient Mysteries: Secret Mounds of Prehistoric America **7.00** Brute Force Attack, Helicopters **7.30** Playback with Jeffrey Archer

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Home Shopping **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Cocina del Nosh **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** First Taste **2.00** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Vin Ordinaire **4.30** An Umbrian Kitchen **8.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** The Roseanne Show **9.00** Jerry Springer **10.40** Michael Cole **11.30** Brookside **12.00** Living Issues **12.30pm** Rescue 911 **1.00** Beyond Belief, Fact or Fiction **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Rolonda **2.55** Living it Up! **3.55** Jerry Springer **4.45** Tempest **6.30** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Beyond Belief, Fact or *Fiction* **9.00** *Adrenalin Junkies* **9.00 FILM: Buried Secrets (1996)** **11.00** The Sex Zone **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.00am Your Zindagi **6.30** Zee Health Show **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Margerita **0.00** Daastan **9.30** Mujhe Chaand Chahiye **10.00** Awaazaan **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Ikke Pe Ikka **3.30** Do *Aur Do Paanch* **4.00** *Campus* **4.30** *Quiz* Contest **5.00** Andaz **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **8.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Yehi Hai Zindagi **7.30** Filmi Baaten **9.00** News **8.30** Gumrah **9.00** TVS Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** Shapath **10.30** Mysteries **11.30** Blunt TV **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Cheshme Baddoor **1.30** Raahat **2.00** FILM **4.30** Tamil Programme **5.30** Sa Re Ga Na

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Past problems catch up with Safeway

BUSINESS

FAR EAST 49
Roger Bootle on rates and the banks

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 1998

Blair defends handling of the economy

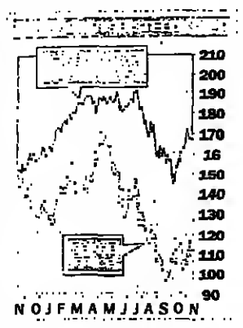
By Adam Jones and Carl Mortished

TONY BLAIR will tonight launch a robust defence of the Government's handling of the economy, reacting to growing public unease about unemployment and prospects.

The Prime Minister is set to abandon tradition by putting the economy at the centre of his Guildhall speech, which is normally used to set out foreign policy. Instead, he will answer criticism of the decision to grant independence to the Bank of England and defend Gordon Brown's spending plans.

Mr Blair will acknowledge that manufacturing has suffered hardship as a result of the strength of sterling and weaker export markets. But he will insist the Government will adhere to current policies which, he will say, address structural weakness in the economy.

However, public confidence in the economy is likely to suffer another blow today when British Steel announces a sharp fall in profits and sets out plans for further cutbacks, including job losses. At the same time, unions and management at Rover begin a final round of talks aimed at agreeing a plan to save the Longbridge plant in the Midlands. A cost-cutting labour deal now being negotiated is likely to result in the loss of 2,500 jobs, with an announcement due later this week.



British Steel, whose shares have virtually halved in a year, will today disclose a fall in pre-tax profits from £143 million to about £100 million, forcing the company to hold the interim dividend.

The company has been severely affected by a collapse in steel prices in recent weeks. Steel prices in Europe have crumbled by up to 15 per cent over the past eight weeks, report steel industry experts. Reduced demand from manufacturers is in part to blame but a rush of imports from Asia and Eastern Europe has flooded steel stock holders with product.

The company recently contributed to the job attrition in the North East with the closure of the Darlington & Simpsons Rolling Mills, laying off 234 workers. British Steel has also been trimming its overheads by outsourcing non-core businesses such as information technology.

Talks between Rover, the troubled British carmaker, and its unions resume today amid expectations that a cost-cutting labour deal — including the possible loss of 2,500 jobs — will be agreed this week.

Rover's parent, BMW of Germany, is demanding an overhaul of the way Rover's 39,000 staff work and has set a deadline of November 30. If changes are not made, the factory at Longbridge in the Midlands faces closure.

Rover and BMW have been negotiating with three unions — the AEEU, the TGWU and the MSF — to try and introduce flexible working. During the negotiations, it is understood that the unions have softened their opposition towards some measures.

BMW wants Rover workers to adopt a system used at its German factories where shorter hours are worked during lean periods, with the hours being made up with no overtime benefit during peak demand.

John Kitching, Carpetright's managing director, left, with Lord Harris. Carpetright is to regain control of Carpetland

Lord Harris to pay £14m for Carpetland

By Sarah Cunningham
Retail Correspondent

LORD HARRIS of Peckham, the chairman of Carpetright, is set to take back control of Carpetland ten years after selling it as part of his former Harris Queensway group.

He will pay £14 million for the business to Allied Carpets, the struggling carpets retailer, which should help Allied to remain an independent company. The deal may be announced as early as today.

Allied put itself up for sale in September following the uncovering of embarrassing accounting irregularities that led to the departure of its finance director.

It received a number of bid approaches, including one from Luke Johnson, the entrepreneur, and one from Alchemy Partners.

Allied hopes that the disposal of Carpetland, the worst-performing part of the group, will mean that institutional shareholders will allow the existing management, led by Ray Nethercott, chief executive, to continue running the rest of the group, which will contain 232 stores.

Carpetland was bought by its management, led by Mr Nethercott, out of receivership from Lowndes Queensway, the former Harris Queensway, in 1991.

Carpetland changed its name to Allied Carpets in 1993 when it bought the Allied Maples group from Asda.

Both Allied and Carpetright have seen their shares fall sharply in value in recent months as sales have suffered in the consumer downturn.

Richard Hyman, of Verdict Research, said: "This is a brave move by Carpetright. The short-term outlook is very depressed for carpet retailers, so they are looking to the long term with this deal."

Shares in Allied Carpets closed at 52p on Friday, having traded at 206p a year ago before enjoying a modest recovery amid speculation of a deal involving Lord Harris.

Shares in Carpetright peaked at 624½p last year, but ended last week at just 184p.

Tomkins may go into new field

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is to tell the City this week that it may add a fourth leg to its three main businesses — construction components, food manufacturing and industrial and automotive engineering.

Greg Hutchings, chairman, is to make presentations to analysts and institutions in London tomorrow and in New York on Thursday. The meetings are mainly about Tomkins's current trading, with investors concerned about its exposure to the US automotive industry, but Mr Hutchings is also expected to give an update on strategy.

He told *The Times* that Tomkins is currently concentrating on in-fill acquisitions but may consider adding a fourth leg in two or three years' time. This would be in manufacturing.

Mr Hutchings will also say that Tomkins still intends to sell its professional, garden and leisure side, including the gunmaker Smith & Wesson.

Corporate Profile, page 47

ScottishPower aim

ScottishPower, the electricity, water, gas and telecoms supplier, is trying again to win control of a US utility. It is thought to be in talks with PacifiCorp, which was outbid for control of Britain's Energy Group by Texas Utilities. PacifiCorp is valued at £4 billion, and ScottishPower at £8 billion. ScottishPower had unsuccessful merger talks with Florida Progress and Cinergy, of Ohio.

US tobacco deal

US tobacco groups would pay $206 billion (£124 billion) to end state claims over costs of treating sick smokers under a deal to be announced today. It salvages parts of a tobacco agreement that perished in Congress and limits marketing of tobacco products. It has been agreed with Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, BAT's Brown & Williamson, and Lorillard.

New firm's Isa

Standard Life Investments, the asset management company launched today by the mutual insurer, is to offer the first Catmarked individual savings account (Isa) investing in stocks and shares. Most Catmarked equity Isas are expected to be FTSE 100 trackers because they are cheap to run.

GAD to relax solvency rules

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

THE Government is preparing to relax the solvency rules for insurance companies to prevent many of them collapsing should the FTSE 100 plunge below 4,500.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) will write to chief executives this week to reassure them that if the market falls from its current level of 5,463 by 18 per cent or more, their companies will not automatically become insolvent.

Actuaries had predicted that sharp falls in equity markets could trigger a wave of consolidation. Weaker life companies, particularly the mutuals, could be forced into the arms of financially stronger partners if their solvency margins were eroded, they said.

The GAD believes that the further the FTSE 100 falls, the more likely it is to rebound and therefore the lighter the solvency margins should be under the new rules.

Small life companies and mutuals have had to cope with the double burden of falling share prices and low yields on government bonds.

Mike Wadsworth, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, said: "Although the amended margins now look less likely to apply than they would have done a month ago, markets are still volatile. For the insurance companies, the end of the year is a long way off."

Hoechst heads for £26bn Rhône-Poulenc merger

By Martin Barrow

HOECHST and Rhône-Poulenc, two of Europe's biggest pharmaceutical groups, are poised to merge, creating a £26 billion giant.

The two companies are said to be close to agreement, with an announcement possible tomorrow, when Germany's Hoechst is due to announce financial results.

Shares in Hoechst and in France's Rhône-Poulenc have surged in recent weeks amid speculation that a merger was imminent. Consolidation in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals industry is gathering pace, with the Swiss companies Ciba and Clariant agreeing to join forces earlier this month.

Lazard Frères, adviser to Hoechst, and Rothschild, for Rhône-Poulenc, have been in negotiations for several weeks and are confident that a deal can be done. However, some analysts fear that the contrasting cultures of the two companies could become a barrier.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1564

ACROSS
1 Encroach (8)
5 Safety device; melt together (4)
7 Smelling salts (3,8)
8 Mercy, sympathy (4)
9 Move in from margin; place order (6)
10 Mafia conspiracy of silence (6)
13 Small hotel (3)
14 City of ancient Greece, Egypt (6)
17 Mass departure (6)
18 Narrow opening; gashed (4)
19 Bravura performance (4,2,5)
20 A bird; it flies straight (4)
21 Speak condescendingly; help pilot's descent (4,4)

DOWN
1 Vow-of-silence monk (8)
2 Totter; influence (4)
3 A commercial (13)
4 Makes pact with devil (5,4,4)
5 (Fine) condition (6)
6 Pick; specially picked (6)
7 Heavy pudding (6)
11 Poser; sieve (6)
12 German shepherd (8)
15 Virtue; a top card (6)
16 Underground lair; dig this (6)
18 Race along (clouds) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1563
ACROSS: 1 Transgress 8 Waylaid 9 Paste 10 Rout 11 Detached 13 Mason 14 Dixon 16 Dripping 17 Pair 20 Finch 21 Veiling 22 Stonehenge
DOWN: 1 Tower 2 Any Questions? 3 Slav 4 Rudder 5 Sephardi 6 Asphyxiation 7 Deaden 12 Snapshot 13 Modify 15 Uneven 18 Rogue 19 Wish

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M&S vows to fight news cuttings writ

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER, ill-accustomed to the relentless criticism that it has attracted in newspapers over its damaging boardroom battles, is embroiled in a legal dispute with the Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA).

The agency, set up by the national press, is seeking to enforce a demand that M&S pay a licence fee to cover copyright on articles that it photocopies and circulates internally.

The NLA last week served a writ on Marks & Spencer. The case is due in court next month. A spokeswoman for Marks & Spencer said: "We have always challenged their [the NLA's] right to issue licences and charge a fee when we only circulate these cuttings to senior management. We have never paid it." The company plans a vigorous defence of its position.

Anthony Rentoul, chief executive of the NLA, said: "Marks & Spencer declined to apply for a licence and we therefore felt obliged to start proceedings."

Over the past fortnight, the cuttings file on M&S has been particularly weighty as an attempt to unseat Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman became public.

Oates: doubts over future

Keith Oates, deputy chairman, last week reportedly put himself forward as a possible non-executive chairman in partnership with Peter Salsbury, currently one of the group's managing directors, as chief executive. Sir Richard cut short a trip to India last week to quell the rebellion.

M&S yesterday declined to comment on reports that Mr Oates will be forced to quit, but big shareholders believe that he will be unable to remain in the company.

Weekend reports that Allan Leighton, chief executive of Asda, has been approached to join M&S were dismissed by an Asda spokeswoman, who said that he had received no overtures, formal or informal.

Microsoft case sends out corporate e-mail alarm

From Oliver August in New York

MICROSOFT's anti-trust trial has affected US corporate culture even before most of the witnesses have been heard.

Executives are ordering staff to destroy any incriminating e-mails after they witnessed the devastating effect of Microsoft mail in the hands of the Justice Department.

Data management and e-mail retention policies are being redrawn to avoid creating hostages to fortune. Internal messages exchanged between Microsoft employees are the star witnesses in the trial.

Amazon.com, the online bookseller, has become the latest company to respond to the potential threat from cyberspace. A memo to employees said: "There are some communications that should not be expressed in written form."

As the biggest online bookseller, Amazon.com executives may fear that the Justice Department could take an interest in its market dominance. Like Microsoft, its informal corporate culture is heavily dependent on electronic communications.

The Polk Company, a consultancy, is reviewing its data system after discovering that employees had each stored up to 10,000 e-mails.

David Zaccagnini, a Polk vice-president, said: "What the trial has done is to say that if people are using this as an electronic filing system, it could be a dangerous medium."

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